





am
OVID'S
EPISTLES,
TRANSLATED
BY
SEVERAL HANDS:

The third Edition.

Vel tibi composita cantetur Epistola voce:

Ignotum hoc aliis ille novavit opus. Ovid.

L O N D O N,

Printed for Jacob Tonson, and are to be Sold by
Timothy Goodwin, at the Maiden-head over-
against St. Dunstons-Church in Fleet-street.
1683.

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THE
PREFACE

BY

Mr. DRYDEN.

THE *Life of Ovid* being already written in our language before the Translation of his *Metamorphoses*, I will not presume so far upon my self, to think I can add any thing to Mr. Sandys his undertaking. The English Reader may there be satisfied, that he flourish'd in the Reign of Augustus Cæsar, that he was Extracted from an Ancient Family of Roman Knights; that he was born to the Inheritance of a Splendid Fortune, that he was design'd to the Study of the Law; and had made considerable progress in it, before he quitted that Profession, for this of Poetry, to which he was more naturally form'd. The Cause of his Banishment is unknown; because he was himself unwilling further to provoke the Emperour, by ascribing it to any other reason, than what was pretended by Augustus, which was the Lasciviousness of his Elegies, and his Art of Love. 'Tis true they are not to be Ex-

The PREFACE to

cus'd in the severity of Manners, as being able to Corrupt a larger Empire, if there were any, than that of Rome; yet this may be said in behalf of Ovid, that no man has ever treated the Passion of Love with so much Delicacy of thought, and of Expression, or search'd into the nature of it more Philosophically than he. And the Emperour who condemn'd him, had as little reason as another Man to punish that fault with so much severity, if at least he were the Author of a certain Epigram, which is ascrib'd to him, relating to the Cause of the first Civil War betwixt himself and Mark Anthony the Triumvir, which is more sulsome than any passage I have met within our Poet. To pass by the naked familiarity of his Expressions to Horace, which are cited in that Authors Life, I need only mention one notorious Act of his in taking Livia to his Bed, when she was not only Married, but with Child by her Husband, then living. But Decds, it seems, may be Justified by Arbitrary Power, when words are question'd in a Poet. There is another gheiss of the Grammarians, as far from truth as the first from Reason; they will have him Banish'd for some favours, which they say he receiv'd from Julia, the Daughter of Augustus, whom they think he Celebrates under the Name of Corinna in his Elegies: But he who will observe the Verses which are made to that Mistress, may gather from the whole contexture of them, that Corinna was not a Woman of the highest Quality: If Julia were then Married to Agrippa, why should our Poet make his Petition to his, for her safe delivery, and afterwards, Condole her Mis-carriage;

OVID's EPISTLES.

carriage ; which for ought he knew might be by her own Husband ? Or indeed how durst he be so bold to make the least discovery of such a Crime, which was no less than Capital, especially Committed against a Person of Agrippa's Rank ? Or if it were before her Marriage, he would surely have been more discreet, than to have publish'd an Accident, which must have been fatal to them both. But what most Confirms me against this Opinion is, that Ovid himself complains that the true Person of Corinna was found out by the Fame of his Verses to her : which if it had been Julia, he durst not have own'd ; and besides, an immediate punishment must have follow'd. He seems himself more truly to have touch'd at the Cause of his Exile in those obscure Verses,

Cur aliquid vidi, cur noxia Lumina feci? &c.

Namely, that he had either seen, or was Conscious to somewhat, which had procur'd him his disgrace. But neither am I satisfied that this was the Incest of the Emperour with his own Daughter: For Augustus was of a nature too vindicative to have contented himself with so small a Revenge, or so unsafe to himself, as that of simple Banishment, and would certain'y have secur'd his Crimes from publick notice by the death of him who was witness to them. Neither have Histories given us any sight into such an Action of this Emperour: nor would he (the greatest Politician of his time,) in all probability, have manag'd his Crimes with so little secreesse, as not to shun the Observation of any man. It seems more probable that Ovid was either the Confident of some other passion, or that he had stumbled by

The PREFACE to

some inadvertency upon the privacies of Livia, and seen her in a Bath: For the words

Sine veste Dianam,

agree better with Livia, who had the Fame of Chastity, than with either of the Julia's, who were both noted of incontinency. The first Verses which were made by him in his Youth, and recited publicly, according to the Custom, were, as he himself assures us, to Corinna: his Banishment happen'd not till the age of fifty; from which it may be deduc'd, with probability enough, that the love of Corinna did not occasion it: Nay he tells us plainly, that his offence was that of Errour only, not of wickedness: and in the same Paper of Verses also, that the cause was notoriously known at Rome, though it be left so obscure to after ages.

But to leave Conjectures on a Subject so incertain, and to write somewhat more Authentick of this Poet: That he frequented the Court of Augustus, and was well receiv'd in it, is most undoubted: all his Poems bear the Character of a Court, and appear to be written as the French call it Cavalierement: add to this, that the Titles of many of his Elegies, and more of his Letters in his Banishment, are address'd to persons well known to us, even at this distance, to have been considerable in that Court.

Nor was his acquaintance less with the famous Poets of his age, than with the Noble-men and Ladies; he tells you himself, in a particular account of his own Life, that Macer, Horace, Tibullus, Propertius, and many others of them were his familiar Friends, and that some of them communicated their Writings

to

OVID'S EPISTLES.

to him : but that he had only seen Virgil.

If the imitation of Nature be the business of a Poet, I know no Author who can justly be compar'd with ours, especially in the Description of the passions. And to prove this, I shall need no other Judges than the generality of his Readers : for all Passions being in-born with us, we are almost equally Judges when we are concern'd in the representation of them : Now I will appeal to any man who has read this Poet, whether he find not the natural Emotion of the same Passion in himself, which the Poet describes in his feign'd persons ? his thoughts which are the Pictures and results of those Passions, are generally such as naturally arise from those disorderly Motions of our Spirits. Yet, not to speak too partially in his behalf, I will confess that the Copiousness of his Wit was such, that he often writ too pointedly for his Subject, and made his persons speak more Eloquently than the violence of their Passion would admit : so that he is frequently witty out of season : leaving the imitation of Nature, and the cooler dictates of his Judgment, for the false applause of Fancy. Yet he seems to have found out this Imperfection in his riper age : for why else should he complain that his Metamorphosis was left unfinished ? Nothing sure can be added to the Wit of that Poem, or of the rest : but many things ought to have been retrench'd ; which I suppose would have been the business of his Age, if his Misfortunes had not come too fast upon him. But take him uncorrected as he is transmitted to us, and it must be acknowledg'd in spite of his Dutch Friends, the Commentators, even
of

The PREFACE 70

of Julius Scaliger himself, that Seneca's Censure will stand good against him ;

Nescivit quod bene cessit relinquere :

he never knew how to give over, when he had done well : but continually varying the same sence an hundred ways and taking up in another place, what he had more than enough inculcated before, he sometimes cloy's his Readers instead of satisfy'ing them : and gives occasion to his Translators, who dare not cover him, to blush at the nakedness of their Father. This then is the Allay of Ovid's writing, which is sufficiently recompenc'd by his other Excellencies ; nay this very fault is not without its Beauties : for the most severe Censor cannot but be pleas'd with the prodigality of his Wit, though at the same time he could have wish'd, that the Master of it had been a better Manager. Every thing which he does, becomes him, and if sometimes he appears too gay, yet there is a secret gracefulnes of youth, which accompanies his Writings, though the stay'dness and sobriety of Age be wanting. In the most material part, which is the conduct, 'tis certain that he seldom has miscarried : for if his Elegies be compar'd with those of Tibullus, and Propertius his Contemporaries, it will be found that those Poets seldom design'd before they writ ; And though the Language of Tibullus be more polish'd, and the Learning of Propertius, especially in his Fourth Book, more set out to ostentation : Yet their common practice, was to look no further before them than the next Line ; whence it will inevitably follow, that they can drive to no certain point, but ramble from one Subject to another,
and

OVID's EPISTLES.

and conclude with somewhat which is not of a piece with their beginning :

Purpureus late qui splendeat, unus & alter

Assuitur pannus : *As Horace says, though the Verses are Golden, they are but patch'd into the Garment. But our Poet has always the Goal in his Eye, which directs him in his Race; some Beautiful design, which he first establishes, and then contrives the means, which will naturally conduct it to his end. This will be Evident to Judicious Readers in this work of his Epistles, of which somewhat, at least in general, will be expected.*

The Title of them in our late Editions is Epistolæ Heroidum, *The Letters of the Heroines. But Hein-sius has judg'd more truly, that the Inscription of our Author was barely, Epistles; which he concludes from his cited Verses, where Ovid asserts this Work as his own Invention, and not borrow'd from the Greeks, whom (as the Masters of their Learning,) the Romans usually did imitate. But it appears not from their writers, that any of the Grecians ever touch'd upon this way, which our Poet therefore justly has vindicated to himself. I quarrel not at the word Heroidum, because 'tis us'd by Ovid in his Art of Love:*

Jupiter ad veteres supplex Heroidas ibat.

But sure he cou'd not be guilty of such an over-sight, to call his Work by the Name of Heroines, when there are divers men or Heroes, as namely Paris, Leander, and Acontius, join'd in it. Except Sabinus, who writ some Answers to Ovids Letters,

(Quam

The PREFACE to

(*Quam celer è toto rediit meus orbe Sabinus,*)

I remember not any of the Romans who have treated this Subject, save only Propertius, and that but once, in his epistle of Arethusa to Lycotas, which is written so near the Style of Ovid, that it seems to be but an Imitation, and therefore ought not to defraud our Poet of the Glory of his Invention.

Concerning this work of the Epistles, I shall content my self to observe these few particulars. First, that they are generally granted to be the most perfect piece of Ovid, and that the Style of them is tenderly Passionate and Courtly; two properties well agreeing with the Persons which were Heroines, and Lovers. Yet where the Characters were lower, as in OEnone, and Hero, he has kept close to Nature in drawing his Images after a Country Life, though perhaps he has Romaniz'd his Grecian Dames too much, and made them speak sometimes as if they had been born in the City of Rome, and under the Empire of Augustus. There seems to be no great variety in the particular Subjects which he has chosen: Most of the Epistles being written from Ladies who were forsaken by their Lovers: Which is the reason that many of the same thoughts come back upon us in divers Letters: But of the general Character of Women which is Modesty, he has taken a most becoming care; for his amorous Expressions go no further than vertue may allow, and therefore may be read, as he intended them, by Matrons without a blush.

Thus much concerning the Poet: Whom you find translated

OVID's EPISTLES.

translated by divers hands, that you may at least have that variety in the English, which the Subject denied to the Author of the Latine. It remains that I should say somewhat of Poetical Translations in general, and give my Opinion (with submission to better Judgments) which way of Version seems to me most proper.

All Translation I suppose may be reduced to these three heads :

First, that of Metaphrase , or turning an Author Word by Word, and Line by Line, from one Language into another. Thus, or near this manner, was Horace his Art of Poetry translated by Ben. Johnson. The second way is that of Paraphrase , or Translation with Latitude, where the Author is kept in view by the Translator, so as never to be lost, but his words are not so strictly follow'd as his sense, and that too is admitted to be amplified, but not altered. Such is Mr. Wallers Translation of Virgil's Fourth Æneid. The Third way is that of Imitation, where the Translator (if now he has not lost that Name) assumes the liberty not only to vary from the words and sense, but to forsake them both as he sees occasion: and taking only some general hints from the Original, to run division on the Ground-work, as he pleases. Such is Mr. Cowley's practice in turning two Odes of Pindar, and one of Horace into English.

Concerning the First of these Methods, our Master Horace has given us this Caution,

Nec verbum verbo curabis reddere, fidus
Interpres ———

Nor

The PREFACE to

Nor word for word too faithfully translate. *As the Earl of Roscommon has excellently render'd it. To faithfully is indeed pedantically: 'Tis a faith like that which proceeds from Superstition, blind and zealous. Take it in the Expression of Sir John Denham, to Sir Rich. Fanshawe, on his Version of the Pastor Fido.*

That servile path, thou nobly do'st decline,
Of tracing Word by Word and Line by Line;
A new and nobler way thou do'st pursue,
To make Translations, and Translators too:
They but preserve the Ashes, thou the Flame,
True to his Sense, but truer to his Fame.

'Tis almost impossible to Translate verbally, and well, at the same time; for the Latin, (a most Severe and Compendious Language) often expresses that in one word, which either the Barbarity, or the narrowness of modern Tongues cannot supply in more, 'Tis frequent also that the Conceit is cou'd in some Expression, which will be lost in English.

Atque iidem Venti vela fidemque ferent.
What Poet of our Nation is so happy as to express this thought Literally in English, and to strike Wit or almost Sense out of it?

In short the Verbal Copier is incumber'd with so many difficulties at once, that he can never disentangle himself from all. He is to consider at the same time the thought of his Author, and his words, and to find out the Counterpart to each in another Language: And besides this he is to confine himself to the compass of Numbers, and the Slavery of Rhime. 'Tis much like dancing

OVID's EPISTLES.

dancing on Ropes with fetter'd Legs: A man may shun a fall by using Caution, but the gracefullness of Motion is not to be expected: And when we have said the best of it, 'tis but a foolish Task; for no sober man would put himself into a danger for the Applause of scaping without breaking his Neck. We see Ben. Johnson could not avoid obscurity in his literal Translation of Horace, attempted in the same compass of Lines: nay Horace himself could scarce have done it to a Greek Poet.

Brevis esse laboro, obscurus fio.

either perspicuity or gracefulness will frequently be wanting. Horace has indeed avoided both these Rocks in his Translation of the three first Lines of Homers Odyssees, which he has Contracted into two.

*Dic mihi Musa Virum captæ post tempora Trojæ
Qui mores hominum multorum vidit & urbes.*

*Muse, speak the man, who since the Siege of Troy, } Earl of
So many Towns, such Change of Manners saw. } Rosc.*

But then the sufferings of Ulysses, which are a Considerable part of that Sentence are omitted.

[Ὅς μάλα πολλὰ πλάγχθη.]

The Consideration of these difficulties, in a servile, literal Translation, not long since made two of our Famous Wits, Sir John Denham, and Mr. Cowley to contrive another way of turning Anticks into our Tongue, call'd by the latter of them, Imitation. As they were Friends, I suppose they Communicated their thoughts on this Subject to each other, and therefore their reasons for it are little different: though the practice of one is much more moderate. I take Imitation

The PREFACE • to

tation of an Author in their sense to be an Endeavour of a later Poet to write like one who has written before him on the same Subject : that is, not to translate his Words, or to be Confin'd to his Sense, but only to set him as a Pattern, and to write, as he supposes that Author would have done, had he liv'd in our Age, and in our Country. Yet I dare not say that either of them have carried this libertine way of rendring Authors (as Mr. Cowley calls it) so far as my Definition reaches. For in the Pindarick Odes, the Customs and Ceremonies of Ancient Greece are still preserv'd : but I know not what mischief may arise hereafter from the Example of such an innovation, when Writers of unequal parts to him, shall imitate so bold an undertaking ; to add and to diminish what we please, which is the way avow'd by him, ought only to be granted to Mr. Cowley, and that too only in his translation of Pindar, because he alone was able to make him amends, by giving him better of his own, when ever he refus'd his Authors thoughts. Pindar is generally known to be a dark Writer, to want Connexion, (I mean as to our understanding) to soar out of sight, and leave his Reader at a Gaze : So wild and ungovernable a Poet cannot be translated literally, his Genius is too strong to bear a Chain, and Sampson like he shakes it off : A Genius so elevated and unconfin'd as Mr. Cowley's, was but necessary to make Pindar speak English, and that was to be perform'd by no other way than Imitation. But if Virgil, or Ovid, or any regular intelligible Authors be thus us'd, 'tis no longer to be call'd their work, when

OVID's EPISTLES.

when neither the thoughts nor words are drawn from the Original: but instead of them there is something new produc'd, which is almost the Creation of another hand. By this way 'tis true, somewhat that is Excellent may be invented, perhaps more Excellent than the first design, though Virgil must be still excepted, when that perhaps takes place: Yet he who is inquisitive to know an Authors thoughts will be disappointed in his expectation. And 'tis not always that a man will be contented to have a Present made him, when he expects the payment of a Debt. To state it fairly, Imitation of an Author is the most advantageous way for a Translator to shew himself but the greatest wrong which can be done to the Memory and Reputation of the dead. Sir John Denham (who advis'd more Liberty than he took himself,) gives this Reason for his Innevation, in his admirable Preface before the Translation of the second Æneid: Poetry is of so subtil a Spirit, that in pouring out of one Language into another, it will all Evaporate; and if a new Spirit be not added in the transfusion, there will remain nothing but a Caput Mortuum. I confess this Argument holds good against a literal Translation, but who defends it? Imitation and verbal Version are in my opinion the two extreams, which ought to be avoided: and therefore when I have propos'd the mean betwixt them, it will be seen how far his Argument will reach.

No man is capable of translating Poetry, who besides a Genius to that Art, is not a Master both of his Authors Language, and of his own: Nor must we under-stand

The PREFACE • to

derstand the Language only of the Poet, but his particular turn of Thoughts, and of Expression, which are the Characters that distinguish, and as it were individuate him from all other Writers. When we are come thus far, 'tis time to look into our selves, to conform our Genius to his, to give his thought either the same turn, if our tongue will bear it, or if not, to vary but the dress, not to alier or destroy the substance. The like Care must be taken of the more outward Ornaments, the Words; when they appear (which is but seldom) literally graceful, it were an injury to the Author that they should be chang'd: But since every Language is so full of its own proprieties, that what is Beautiful in one, is often Barbarous, nay sometimes Nonsense in another, it would be unreasonable to limit a Translator to the narrow compass of his Author's Words: 'tis enough if he chuse out some Expression which does not vitiate the Sense. I suppose he may stretch his Chain to such a Latitude, but by innovation of thoughts, methinks he breaks it. By this means the Spirit of an Author may be transfus'd, and yet not lost: and thus 'tis plain that the reason alledged by Sir John Denham, has no farther force than to Expression: For thought, if it be translated truly, cannot be lost in another Language, but the words that convey it to our apprehension (which are the Image and Ornament of that thought) may be so ill chosen as to make it appear in an unhandsome dress, and rob it of its native Lustre. There is therefore a Liberty to be allowed for the Expression, neither is it necessary that Words and Lines should be confin'd to the measure of their

OVID's EPISTLES.

their Original. The sense of an Author, generally speaking, is to be Sacred and Inviolable. If the Fancy of Ovid be luxuriant, 'tis his Character to be so, and if I retrench it, he is no longer Ovid. It will be replied that he receives advantage by this lopping of his superfluous Branches, but I rejoyn that a Translator has no such Right: when a Painter Copies from the life, I suppose he has no priviledge to alter Features, and Lineaments, under pretence that his Picture will look better: perhaps the Face which he has drawn would be more Exact, if the Eyes, or Nose were alter'd, but 'tis his business to make it resemble the Original. In two Cases only there may a seeming difficulty arise, that is, if the thought be notoriously trivial or dishonest; But the same Answer will serve for both, that then they ought not to be Translated.

— Et quæ

Desperes tractata nitescere posse, relinquo.

Thus I have ventur'd to give my Opinion on this Subject against the Authority of two great men, but I hope without offence to either of their Memories, for I both lov'd them living, and reverence them now they are dead. But if after what I have urg'd, it be thought by better Judges that the praise of a Translation consists in adding new Beauties to the piece, thereby to recompence the loss which it sustains by change of Language, I shall be willing to be taught better, and to recant. In the mean time it seems to me, that the true reason why we have so few Versions which are tolerable, is not from the too close pursuing of the Authors Sense; but because there are so few who have all the Talents which

The PREFACE to, &c.

which are requisite for Translation: and that there is so little Praise and so small Encouragement for so considerable a part of Learning.

To apply in short, what has been said, to this present Work, the Reader will here find most of the Translations, with some little Latitude or variation from the Author's Sence: That of OEnone to Paris, is in Mr. Cowley's way of Imitation only. I was desir'd to say that the Author who is of the Fair Sex, understood not Latine. But if she does not, I am afraid she has given us occasion to be asham'd who do.

For my own part I am ready to acknowledge that I have transgress'd the Rules which I have given; and taken more liberty than a just Translation will allow. But so many Gentlemen whose Wit and Learning are well known, being joyn'd in it, I doubt not but that their Excellencies will make you ample Satisfaction for my Errours.

SAPHO to PHAON:

By the Honourable

Sir *CARR. SCROPE*,
B A R O N E T.

The ARGUMENT.

The Poetess Sapho, forsaken by her Lover Phaon (who was gone from Lesbos to Sicily) and resolved, in Despair, to drown her self, writes this Letter to him before she dies.

WHile *Phaon* to the flaming *Ætna* flies,
Consum'd, with no less Fires, poor *Sapho*
dies.

I burn, I burn, like kindled Fields of Corn,
When by the driving Winds the flames are born.
My Muse and Lute can now no longer please,
They are th' Employments of a mind at ease.

B

Wandering

Wandering from thought to thought I sit alone
All day, and my once dear Companions shun.
In vain the *Lesbian* Maids claim each a part,
Where thou alone hast ta'n up all the heart.
Ah lovely Youth! how can'st thou cruel prove,
When blooming years and beauty bid thee love?
If none but equal Charms thy heart can bind,
Then to thy self alone thou must be kind.
Yet worthless as I am, there was a time
When *Phaon* thought me worthy his esteem.
A thousand tender things to mind I call,
For they who truly love remember all. }
Delighted with the Musick of my Tongue,
Upon my words with silent joy he hung,
And snatching Kisses, stop'd me as I sung.
Kisses, whose melting touch, his Soul did move,
The earnest of the coming joys of Love.
Then tender words, short sighs, and thousand charms
Of wanton Arts endear'd me to his Arms ;

Till

Till both expiring with tumultuous Joys,
A gentle faintness did our Limbs surprize.
Beware, *Sicilian* Ladies, Ah! beware
How you receive my faithless Wanderer.
You too will be abus'd, if you believe
The flattering words that he so well can give.
Loose to the Winds I let my flowing Hair,
No more with fragrant scents perfume the Air,
But all my Dress discovers wild Despair.
For whom alas! should now my Art be shown?
The only man I car'd to please is gone.
Oh let me once more see those Eyes of thine,
Thy Love I ask not, do but suffer mine.
Thou might'st at least have ta'n thy last farewell,
And feign'd a sorrow which thou didst not feel.
No kind remembring Pledge was askt by thee,
And nothing left but Injuries with me.
Witness ye Gods, with what a Death-like cold
My heart was seiz'd, when first thy flight was told.

Speechless and stupid for a while I lay,
And neither words, nor tears could find their way.
But when my swelling Passion forc'd a vent,
With Hair dishevell'd, Clothes in pieces rent ;
Like some sad Mother through the Streets I run,
Who to his Grave attends her only Son.
Expos'd to all the World my self I see,
Forgetting Vertue , Fame, and all but thee ;
So ill alas ! do Love and Shame agree !
'Tis thou alone that art my constant care,
In pleasing Dreams thou comfort'st my despair ;
And mak'st the night, that does thy form convey,
Welcome to me above the fairest day.
Then 'spight of absence, I thy Love enjoy ;
In close imbraces lock'd, methinks, we lie ;
Thy tender words I hear, thy Kisses feel,
With all the Joys that shame forbids to tell.
But when I waking miss thee from my bed,
And all my pleasing Images are fled ;

The dear deluding Vision to retain,
I lay me down, and try to sleep again.
Soon as I rise, I haunt the Caves and Groves,
(Those conscious scenes of our once happy loves)
There like some frantick *Bacchanal* I walk,
And to my self with sad distraction talk.
Then big with grief I throw me on the ground,
And view the melancholy *Grotto* round ;
Whose hanging roof of Moss and craggy Stone
Delights my eyes above the brightest Throne.
But when I spy the bank, whose grassy bed
Retains the print our weary bodies made ;
On thy forsaken side I lay me down,
And with a shower of tears the place I drown.
The Trees are wither'd all since thou art gone,
As if for thee they put their Mourning on.
No warbling *Bird* does now with Musick fill
The Woods, except the mournful *Philomel*.
With hers my dismal Notes all night agree,
Of *Tereus* she complains, and I of thee.

Ungentle Youth! did'st thou but see me mourn,
Hard as thou art, thou would'st, thou would'st return.
My constant falling tears the Paper stain,
And my weak hand can scarce direct my Pen.
Oh could thy eyes but reach my dreadful state,
As now I stand prepar'd for sudden Fate,
Thou could'st not see this naked breast of mine
Dash'd against Rocks, rather than joyn'd to thine.
Peace, *Sapho*, peace! thou send'st thy fruitless crys
To one more hard than rocks, more deaf than seas.
The flying Winds bear thy complaints away,
But none will ever back his Sails convey.
No longer then thy hopeless Love attend,
But let thy Life here with thy Letter end.

CANACE

CANACE to MACAREUS:

B Y

Mr. D R Y D E N.

The ARGUMENT.

Macareus and Canace Son and Daughter to Æolus, God of the Winds, lov'd each other Incestuously: Canace was delivered of a Son, and committed him to her Nurse, to be secretly convey'd away. The Infant crying out, by that means was discovered to Æolus, who inrag'd at the wickedness of his Children, commanded the Babe to be expos'd to Wild Beasts on the Mountains: And, withal, sent a Sword to Canace, with this Message, That her Crimes would instruct her how to use it. With this Sword she slew her self: But before she died, she writ the following Letter to her Brother Macareus, who had taken Sanctuary in the Temple of Apollo.

IF streaming blood my fatal Letter stain,
 Imagine, e're you read, the Writer slain:
 One hand the Sword, and one the Pen employs,
 And in my lap the ready Paper lies.

B 4

Think

Think in this posture thou behold'st me write;
In this my cruel Father wou'd delight.

O were he present, that his eyes and hands
Might see and urge the death which he commands,
Than all the raging Winds more dreadful, he
Unmov'd, without a tear, my wounds wou'd see,
Jove justly plac'd him on a stormy Throne,
His Peoples temper is so like his own.

The *North* and *South*, and each contending blast
Are underneath his wide Dominion cast:
Those he can rule; but his tempestuous mind
Is, like his airy Kingdom, unconfin'd.

Ah! what avail my kindred Gods above,
That in their number I can reckon *Jove*!
What help will all my heav'nly friends afford,
When to my breast I lift the pointed Sword?
That hour which joyn'd us came before its time,
In death we had been one without a crime:
Why did thy flames beyond a *Brother's* move?
Why lov'd I thee with more than *Sisters* love?

For

For I lov'd too ; and knowing not my wound,
A secret pleasure in thy Kisses found :
My Cheeks no longer did their colour boast,
My Food grew loathsome, and my strength I lost :
Still e're I spoke, a sigh wou'd stop my tongue ;
Short were my slumbers, and my nights were long.
I knew not from my love these griefs did grow,
Yet was, alas, the thing I did not know.
My wily Nurse by long experience found,
And first discover'd to my Soul its wound.
'Tis Love, said she ; and then my down-cast eyes,
And guilty dumbness, witness'd my surprize.
Forc'd at the last, my shameful pain I tell :
And, oh, what followed ! we both know too well !
' When half denying, more than half content,
' Embraces warm'd me to a full consent :
' Then with tumultuous Joys my Heart did beat,
' And guilt that made them anxious made them
great,

But

But now my swelling womb heav'd up my breast,
And rising weight my sinking Limbs oppress.

What Herbs, what Plants, did not my Nurse
produce

To make Abhortion by their powerful Juice?

What Medicines try'd we not, to thee unknown?

Our first crime common; this was mine alone.

But the strong Child, secure in his dark Cell,

With Natures vigour, did our Arts repel.

And now the pale fac'd Empress of the Night,

Nine times had fill'd her Orb with borrow'd light:

Not knowing 'twas my Labour, I complain

Of sudden shootings, and of grinding pain:

My throes came thicker, and my crys increast,

Which with her hand the conscious Nurse suppress.

To that unhappy fortune was I come,

Pain urg'd my clamours; but fear kept me dumb

With inward struggling I restrain'd my cries.

And drunk the tears that trickled from my eyes.

Death

CANACE to MACAREUS. II

Death was in fight, *Lucina* gave no aid ;
 And ev'n my dying had my guilt betray'd.
 Thou cam'st ; and in thy Count'nance fate De-
 spair :

Rent were thy Garments all, and torn thy Hair :
 Yet, feigning comfort which thou cou'dst not give,
 (Prest in thy Arms, and whisp'ring me to live :)
 For both our sakes, (said'st thou) preserve thy life ;
 Live, my dear Sister, and my dearer Wife.

Rais'd by that name, with my last pangs, I strove :
 Such pow'r have words, when spoke by those we
 love.

The *Babe*, as if he heard what thou hadst sworn,
 With hasty joy sprung forward to be born.

What helps it to have weather'd out one Storm ?
 Fear of our *Father* does another form.

High in his Hall, rock'd in a Chair of State,
 The King with his tempestuous Council sate :
 Through this large Room our only passage lay,
 By which we cou'd the new-born *Babe* convey.

Swath'd,

Swath'd in her lap, the bold Nurse bore him out
With Olive branches cover'd round about :
And, mutt'ring Pray'rs, as holy Rites she meant,
Through the divided Crowd, unquestion'd went
Just at the door th'unhappy Infant cry'd :
The Grandfire heard him, and the theft he spy'd
Swift as a Whirl-wind to the Nurse he flies ;
And deafs his stormy Subjects with his cries.
With one fierce puff, he blows the leaves away :
Expos'd, the self-discover'd Infant lay.
The noise reach'd me, and my presaging mind
Too soon its own approaching woes divin'd.
Not Ships at Sea with winds are shaken more,
Nor Seas themselves, when angry Tempests roar,
Than I, when my loud Father's voice I hear :
The *Bed* beneath me trembled with my fear.
He rush'd upon me, and divulg'd my stain ;
Scarce from my Murther cou'd his hands refrain.
I only answer'd him with silent tears ;
They flow'd ; my tongue was frozen up with fear.

CANACE to MACAREUS. 13

His little Grand-child he commands away,
To Mountain Wolves, and every Bird of prey.
The Babe cry'd out, as if he understood,
And begg'd his pardon with what voice he cou'd.
By what expressions can my grief be shown?
(Yet you may guess my anguish by your own)
To see my bowels, and what yet was worse,
Your bowels too, condemn'd to such a Curse!
Out went the King; my voice its freedom found,
My Breasts I beat, my blubber'd Cheeks I wound.
And now appear'd the Messenger of death,
Sad were his Looks, and scarce he drew his
Breath,
To say, *Your Father sends you ---* (with that word
His trembling hands presented me a Sword :)
Your Father sends you this; and lets you know,
That your own Crimes the use of it will show.
Too well I know the sense those words impart :
His *Present* shall be treasur'd in my heart.

Are

Are these the Nuptial Gifts a Bride receives?
 And this the fatal Dow'r a Father gives?
 Thou God of Marriage shun thy own disgrace;
 And take thy Torch from this detested place:
 Instead of that, let Furies light their brands;
 And fire my pile with their infernal hands.
 With happier fortune may my Sisters wed;
 Warn'd by the dire Example of the dead.
 For thee, poor Babe, what Crime cou'd they pre-
 tend?

How cou'd thy Infant innocence offend?
 A guilt there was; but Oh that guilt was mine!
 Thou suffer'st for a sin that was not thine.
 Thy Mothers grief and crime! but just enjoy'd,
 Shewn to my sight, and born to be destroy'd!
 Unhappy Off-spring of my teeming Womb!
 Drag'd head-long from thy Cradle to thy Tomb!
 Thy un-offending life I could not save,
 Nor weeping cou'd I follow to thy Grave!

CANACE to MACAREUS. 15

Nor on thy Tomb could offer my shorn Hair ;
Nor shew the grief which tender Mothers bear.
Yet long thou shalt not from my Arms be lost,
For soon I will o'retake thy Infant Ghost.
But thou, my Love, and now my Lov's De-
spair,
Perform his Funerals with paternal care.
His scatter'd Limbs with my dead body burn ;
And once more joyn us in the pious Urn.
If on my wounded breast thou drop'st a tear,
Think for whose sake my breast that wound did
bear ;
And faithfully my last desires fulfil,
As I perform my cruel Fathers will.

PHILLIS

PHILLIS to DEMOPHOON.

B Y

Mr. E D. P O L E Y.

The ARGUMENT.

Demophoon, *who was Son to Theseus and Phædra, in returning from the Trojan War into his own Country, was by a Tempest driven upon the Coasts of Thrace; where Phillis, who was then Queen of Thrace, entertained him, and Married him. When he had stayed with her some time, he heard that Menestheus was dead (who after he had conquered Theseus, had usurped the Government of Athens) and under pretence of settling his own Affairs, he went to Athens, and promised the Queen, that he would come back again in a Month. When he had been gone four Months, and that she had heard no news of him, she writes him this Letter.*

Y Ou've gone beyond your time, and ought
to give

So kind a Wife as *Phillis* leave to grieve.

You promis'd me you would no longer stay,

Then till the first full Moon should light your way.

Thrice

Thrice did it since its borrow'd light renew,
 And thrice has chang'd, but not so much as you.
 Did you the Days, and Hours, and Minutes tell,
 As *Phillis* does, and they that loveso well,
 You'd say 'twere time to weep; your sorrows to
 Would justifie those tears she sheds for you.
 Still did I hope, and thought you'd still be here;
 We hardly can believe those things we fear;
 Now 'tis too plain, and spight of Love and you,
 I must both fear it, and believe it too:
 How oft did I deceive my self, and swore,
 I saw your Ship just making to the Shore?
 Then curs'd those Friends I thought had caus'd
 your stay,
 Would you were half so innocent as they.
 Sometimes I fear'd, by foaming Billows tost,
 You might be Shipwrack'd whilst you saught the
 Coast:
 And griev'd t'have injur'd whom I thought so true;
 I beg'd that pardon I'd refus'd to you:

Then, cruel Man! did I the Gods implore
To let you live, though I ne're saw you more.
When I a favourable Gale espy'd,
He comes, if he's alive, he comes, I cry'd.
And thus my love still sought some new pretence,
And I grew eloquent in your defence.
Yet thou avoid'st me still, nor do I see
Those promises thou mad'st to Heaven and me.
'But thy false Vows, alas! were all but wind,
'Thy vows and wishes made the Gale more kind:
'They fill'd your Sails, and you were forc'd away,
'By the same wishes, which you made to stay.
What have I done, but lov'd to an excess?
You'd not been guilty had I lov'd you less.
My only Crime is, loving you too well;
But sure some merit in that Crime does dwell.
Where's now your Faith? And where's the Love
you bore?
Where are the Gods by whom you falsely swore?

Where's

Where's *Hymen* too, who joyn'd our tender years?

He bid me love, and banish'd all my fears.

You swore by th' swelling Billows of the Main,

Which oft you'd try'd, and would yet trust again,

Rather than stay with me, though much more kind,

And constant too, than are the Seas or Wind.

You swore by th' Mighty Ruler of the Flood,

The heav'nly Author of your Royal Blood;

(If e're a God had any thing to do

In one so false and so unkind as you.)

You swore by *Venus*, and the fatal Steel

Of those proud Darts, which too too much I feel;

And by great *Juno*; who's resistless Art

Gave thee my Hand, when I had giv'n my Heart.

Thou swor'st so much, that if each God should be

Just to revenge his injured self and me;

Such numerous mischeifs on thy head would fall,

Thou'dst not have room enough to bear them all;

Distracted I, as if I 'ad fear'd your stay,

Repair'd your Ships to hurry you away.

What haste you wanted, my curs'd care supply'd,
Oars to your Sails, and Current to your Tide.
Thus was I falsely by my self betray'd,
And perish by the wounds my hands have made.
I foolishly believ'd all th' Oaths you swore,
The Race you boasted, and the Gods you bore.
Who could have thought such gentle words e're
Upon a treacherous, deluding Tongue? (hung
I saw your tears, and I believ'd them all,
Can they lie too, and are they taught to fall?
What needed all that numerous Perjury?
One was enough to her that lov'd like me.
I'm not ashamed I did your Ships receive,
And your own wants did carefully relieve;
Those Debts I ought you on a nobler score,
But then, 'tis true, I should have done no more.
All I repent, is that I basely strove
T' increase your welcome by a Nuptial Love.
That night that usher'd in th' unhappy day,
Which did me to your guilty love betray;

I wish that fatal Night had been my last ;
 Then I had died, but then I had been Chast.
 I hop'd you were, 'cause I deserv'd you, *True*,
 Is it a Crime to wish what is our due ?
 'Tis sure no mighty Glory to deceive
 A tender Maid, so willing to believe.
 My weakness does but heighten your offence,
 You kindly should have spar'd my innocence.
 You've gain'd a Maid that lov'd you, and may't be
 Your greatest *Prize*, and only *Victory*.
 May your proud *Statue*, rais'd by this success,
 Shame your great *Father*, 'cause his *Crimes* were less.
 And when late Story shall of *Tyrants* tell,
 And who by *Syron*, and *Procrustes* fell ;
 The *Centaur's* flight, the *Thebans* over-throw,
 Who'twas durst force the dismal shades below ;
 Then for your *Honour* shall at last be said,
 Here's He, who by a wretched wile betray'd
 A Loving, Innocent, Believing Maid.

Of all those *Acts*, we in your *Father* knew,
His *Treachery* alone remains in you.
What only can excuse the *Ills* you do,
You both *Inherit* and *Admire* it too.
He *Ariadne* did betray, but she
Enjoys a *Husband* mightier far than He.
But the scorn'd *Thracians* my Imbraces shun,
'Cause I from them into thy *Arms* did run.
Let her, they cry, to learned *Greece* be gone,
We'll find a Monarch to supply the Throne.
Thus all we do depends on an ill *Fate*,
Which does for ever on th'unhappy wait ;
But may that *Fate* all his best thoughts attend,
Who judges others *Actions* by the end.
For should'st thou ever bless these Seas again, (plain.
They'd praise that love of which they now com-
Then would they say, *What could she better do*
Both for her self, and for her Kingdom too?
But I have err'd, and thou'rt for ever fled,
Forget'st my *Empire*, and forget'st my *Bed*.

Methinks

Methinks, I see thee still, *Demophoon*,
 Thy Sails all hoisted, ready to be gone.
 When boldly thou didst my soft Limbs imbrace,
 And with long Kisses dwelt'st upon my Face;
 Drown'd in my *Tears*, and in your own you lay,
 And curs'd the Winds, that hastn'd you away.
 Then parting cry'd (methinks I hear thee still)
 Phillis *I'll come, you may be sure I will.*

Can I expect that thou'lt e're see this Shore,
 Who left'st it that thou ne're might'st see me more?
 And yet I beg you'd come too, that you may
 Be only guilty in too long a stay.

What do I ask? thou, by new Charms possess'd,
 Forget'st my *kindness* on another *Breast*;

'And better to compleat the *Treachery*, (to me.
 'Swear'st all those Oaths, which thou hast broke
 And hast (false Man) perhaps forgot my name,
 And ask'st too, who I am, and whence I came?
 But that thou better may'st remember me,
 Know, thou ungrateful man, that I am she,

Who, when thou'dst wandred all the Ocean o're,
Harbour'd thy Ships, and welcom'd thee to Shore.
Thy Coffers still replenish'd from my own,
And to that height a Prodigal was grown,
I gave thee all thou ask'dst, and gave so fast,
I gave my self into thy power at last ;
I gave my *Scepter* and my *Crown* to Thee,
A weight too heavy to be born by me.
Where *Hæmus* does his shady head display,
And gentle *Heber* cuts his *Sacred* way,
So great's the *Empire*, and so wide the *Land*,
Scarce to be govern'd by a *Womans* hand,
She whom *Fate* would not suffer to be chaste,
Whose Nuptials with a Fun'ral pomp were grac'd ;
Shrill cries disturb'd us midst our swiftest joys,
And our drawn Curtains trembled with the noise,
Then close to thee I clung, all drown'd in tears,
And sought my shelter, where I'd found my fears.
And now while others drown their *care* in sleep,
I run to th' baren *Shore*, and *Rocks* to weep.
And view with longing eyes the spacious Deep,

re, All day and Night I the *winds* course survey,
 more, Impatient till I find it blows this way,
 And when a far, a coming Sail I view,
 I thank my Stars, and I conclude 'tis you,
 Then with strange haste I run my Love to meet,
 Nor can the flowing Waters stop my feet.
 When near, I grow more fearful than before,
 A sudden trembling seizes me all o're
 And leaves my Body breathless on the Shore.
 Hard by, where two huge Mountains guard the
 way,
 There lies a fearful, solitary Bay.
 Oft I've resolv'd, while on this place I've stood,
 To throw my self into the raging Flood,
 Wild with Despair, and I will do it still,
 Since you continue thus to use me ill.
 And when the kinder Waves shall waft me o're,
 May'st thou behold my body on the Shore
 Unburied lie; and though thy Cruelty
 Harder than Stone, or than thy self should be,

Yet

Yet shalt thou cry, astonish'd with the show,
 Phillis, *I was not to be follow'd so.*
 Raging with Poisons would I oft expire,
 And quench my own by a much happier Fire.
 Then to revenge the loss of all my Rest,
 Would stab thy Image in my tortur'd Breast.
 Or by a Knot (more welcome far to me ^{thee,})
 Than that false Man, which I have tied with
 Strangle that neck, where those false Arms of thine
 With treach'rous kindness us'd so oft to twine;
 And as becomes a poor unhappy Wife,
 Repair my ruin'd Honour with my Life.
 When we can once with our hard Fate comply,
 'Tis easie then to chuse the way to die.
 Then on my Tomb shall the proud Cause be read,
 And thy sad Crime still live, when I am dead,
 Poor Phillis dy'd, by him she lov'd oppress'd,
 The truest Mistress, by the falsest Guest.
 He was the cruel cause of all her woe,
 But her own hand perform'd the fatal Blow.

HYPERMNESTRA
TO
LINUS.
BY
Mr. WRIGHT.

The ARGUMENT.

Danaus, King of Argos, had by several Wives Fifty Daughters, his Brother Ægyptus as many Sons. Danaus, refusing to Marry his Daughters to his Brothers Sons, was at last compelled by an Army. In Revenge, he Commands his Daughters each to Murder her Husband on the Wedding Night: All obey'd but Hypermnestra, who assisted her Husband Linus to escape, for which being afterwards imprisoned and put in Irons, she writes this Epistle.

TO that dear Brother, who alone survives
Of Fifty, late, whose love betray'd their lives,
Writes she that suffers in her Lords defence;
Unhappy Wife whose Crime's her Innocence!

For

For saying him I love, I'm guilty call'd :

Had I been truly so, I'd been extoll'd.

Let me be guilty still since this they say
Is guilt, I glory thus to disobey.

Torments nor Death shall draw me to repent :

Though against me they use that Instrument

From which I sav'd a Husbands dearer life,

And with one Sword kill *Linus* in his Wife;

Yet will I ne're repent for being true,

Or blush t'have lov'd : That let my *Sisters* do :

Such shame, and such repentance is their due,

I'm seiz'd with terrour, while I but relate,

And shun remembrance of a Crime I hate !

The frightful memory of that dire night

Enervates so my hand I scarce can write.

How e're I'll try. With Ceremony gay,

About the set of Night, and rise of Day,

The wicked Sisters were in triumph led,

And I among 'em, to the Nuptial Bed.

The

The Marriage Lights, as Funeral Lamps appear,

And threatning Omens meets us every where.

Hymen they call : *Hymen* neglects their Cryes:

Nay *Juno* too from her own *Argos* flies.

Now come the Bridegrooms, high with Wine, to find
Something with us more lov'd than Wine, behind.

Full of impatient Love, careless and brave,

They seize the Bed, not seeing there a Grave.

What follow'd, shame forbids me to express ;

But who so ignorant as not to guess?

Now their tyr'd Senses they to sleep commit,

A sleep, as still as Death ; ah, too like it ! (died ;

'Twas then, methought, I heard their Groans that

Alas ! 'twas more than thought ! I terrified,

Lay trembling, cold, and without power to move

In that dear Bed, which you had made me love.

While you in the soft Bonds of Sleep lay fast,

Charm'd with the joys of love, then newly past :

Fearing to disobey, I rise at last.

Witness, sweet Heavens, how tender was the strife

Betwixt the name of Daughter and a Wife.

Thrice

Thrice o're your breast, which did so lately joy
In such an Ecstasie of love to mine,
I rais'd the pointed Steel to pierce that part,
But ah! th' attempt strook nearer my own heart.
My Soul divided thus, these words, among
A thousand sighs, fell softly from my tongue.
'Dost thou not heed a Father's awful will?
'Dost thou not fear his power? On then, and kill.
'How can I kill, when I consider who?
'Can I think death? against a Lover too.
'What has my Sex with Blood and Arms to do?
'Fye, thou art now by Love to shame betray'd:
'Thy Sister-Brides by this have all obey'd.
'With shame their Courage and their Duty see:
'If not a Daughter, yet a Sister be.
'No, I will never strike: If one must die
'*Linus* shall live, and my death his supply.
'What has he done, or I, what greater ill?
'For him to die, and I, much worse, to kill?

'Were

joy 'Were he as guilty as my Father wou'd
 'Present him, why must I be stain'd with blood?
 'Poniards and Swords ill with my Sex agree:
 art. 'Soft Looks, and Sighs of Love, our weapons be.
 As I lamented thus, the tears apace
 e. Dropt from my pitying eyes, on thy lov'd face.
 While you, with kind and amorous Dreams possesst,
 kill. Threw carelessly your dear arm o're my breast,
 There thinking to repeat Joys lately known,
 Your hand upon my Sword was almost thrown.
 'Twas time to call, no longer I forbore,
 Dreading the Days approach, my Father's more.
 Wake *Linus*, wake, I cry'd; O quickly wake,
 Or sleep for ever here; Th' alarm you take,
 Start up: Ask twenty questions in one breath:
 To all I answer thus ——— Delay is death;
 Fly while 'tis dark, and scape eternal night.
 While it was dark you made a happy flight:
 I stay'd to meet the terrours of the light.

With

With day my Father comes, the dead to view;
And finds the dismal Sum one short, by you.
Enrag'd to see his treachery betray'd,
By his Command, I'm thus in Fetters laid.
Is this reward due to my Love from Fate?
Ah, wretched flame! Passion unfortunate!
Since *Io* suffered under *Juno's* Rage,
Nothing that Rival'd Goddess can assuage.
Th'unhappy Mistress of the mighty *Jove*,
Chang'd to a Cow, a form unapt for Love,
Veiw's in her Father's streams her heads array.
Sees her own horns, and frighted, starts away.
When she'd complain, she lows: and equal fears
From her new self surprise her eyes and ears.
In vain to lose the frightful shape she tries,
For *Io* follows still, where *Io* flies.
In vain she wanders over Lands and Seas;
Can she find Cure whose self is the Disease?
Sadly severe the change in her appear'd,
Whose Beauty *Jove* has lov'd, and *Juno* fear'd.

Grafs and the Springs her food and drink supply;
Her only Lodging's the unsheltring Sky!
What need I urge Antiquity? my fate
Is a fresh instance of the Goddess hate.
A double stock of Tears by me are spilt
Both for my Brothers death, and Sisters guilt.
Yet, as if that were small, these Chains arrive,
'Cause I, alone, am guiltless, you alive.

But, my dear Lord, if any thought you have,
Or of the Love, or of the life I gave:
If any memory with you does last,
Or of the Pleasures, or the Dangers past,
Now, *Linus*, now some help to her afford,
Who wants the Liberty she gave her Lord.
If life forsake me e're I you can see,
And death, before my *Linus*, set me free,
Yet my unhappy Earth from hence remove,
And give those Obsequies are due to Love.
When I'm inter'd I know some tears will fall:
Then let this little Epitaph be all.

Here lies a Love compleat, tho' hapless Wife,
 Who catch'd the Death aim'd at her Husbands life
 Here I must rest my hand, tho' much remains,
 'Tis quite disabled with the weight of Chains.

ARIADNE

ARIADNE TO THESEUS.

The ARGUMENT.

Minus, King of Crete, by a sharp War, compell'd the Athenians, (who had treacherously slain his Son Androgeos,) to send yearly seven Young men, and as many Virgins to be devour'd by the Minotaure; a Monster begotten by a Bull upon his Wife Pasiphae, while he was engaged in that War. The Chance at last fell upon Theseus to be sent among those Youths; who, by the Instructions of Ariadne, escaped out of the Labyrinth, after he had kill'd the Minotaure, and, together with her, fled to the Isle of Nixos. But, being Commanded by Bacchus, he forsook her, while she slept. When she awaked and found her self deserted, she writes this Letter.

(fear'd;
THan savage Beasts more fierce, more to be
Expos'd by Thee, by Them I yet am spar'd!

These Lines from that unhappy Shore I write,
Where you forsook me in your faithless flight,
And the most tender Lover did betray,
While lock'd in sleep, and in your Arms she lay
When Morning dew on all the Fields did fall,
And Birds with early Songs for day did call;
Then I, half sleeping, stretch'd me tow'ards your
place,
And sought to press you with a new embrace:
Oft sought to press you close, but still in vain;
My folding Arms came empty back again.
Startled, I rose, and found that you were gone,
Then on my widow'd Bed fell raging down:
Beat the fond Breast, where, spight of me, you
dwell,
And tore that hair, which you once lik'd so well.
By the Moons light I the wide Shore did view,
But all was Desert, and no sight of you.
Then every way, with Loves mad haste I fly,
But ill my feet with my desires comply;

Weary

Weary they sink in the deep yeilding Sands,
Refusing to obey such wild Commands.

To all the Shore of *Theseus* I complain,
The Hills and Rocks send back that Name again :
Of they repeat aloud the mournful noise,
And kindly aid a hoarse and dying voice.

Tho' faint, yet still impatient, next I try
To climb a rough steep Mountain which was nigh:
(My furious Love unusual strength supply'd:)
From thence, casting my eyes on every side,
Far off the flying Vessel I espy'd.

In your swell'd Sails the wanton Winds did play,
(They Court you since they see you false as they.)
I saw, or fancy'd that I saw you there,
And my chill Veins froze up with cold despair.

Thus did I languish, till returning Rage
In new extreams did my fir'd Soul engage.

Theseus, I cry, perfidious *Theseus* stay!

(But you are deaf, deaf as the Winds, or Sea !

Stay your false flight, and let your Vessel bear
Hence the whole number which she landed hear!
In loud and doleful shrieks I tell the rest,
And with fresh Fury wound my hated Breast.
Then all my shining Ornaments I tear, (Air,
And with stretch'd Arms wave them in open
That you might see her whom you could not
hear.

But when out of my sight the Vessel flew,
And the Horizen shut me from the view;
From my sad eyes, what floods of tears did fall!
(Till then Rage would not let me weep at all.)
Still let them weep, for losing sight of you,
'Tis the whole business which they ought to do.
Like *Bacchus* raving Priests sometimes I go:
With such wild haste, with hair dishevel'd so.
Then on some craggy Rock sit silent down,
As cold, unmov'd, and senseless as the Stone,
To our once happy Bed I often fly:
(No more the place of mutual Love and Joy.)

See where my much lov'd *Theseus* once was lay'd

And kiss the print which his dear Body made.

Here we both lay, I cry, false Bed restore

My *Theseus*, kind and faithful as before.

I brought him here, here lost him while I slept.

How well, false Bed, you have my Lover kept!

Alone and helpless in this Desert place

The steps of Man, or Beast I cannot trace,

On every side the foaming Billows beat,

But no kind Ship does offer a retreat.

And should the Gods send me some lucky Sail,

Calm Seas, good Pilots, and a prosperous Gale:

Yet then my Native Soil I durst not see,

But a sad Exile must for ever be.

From all *Cretes* hundred Cities I am curst,

From that fam'd Isle were Infant *Jove* was nurs'd.

Crete I betray'd for you, and, what's more dear,

Betray'd my Father, who that Crown does wear,

When to your hands the fatal Clew I gave, (safe,

Which through the winding Lab'rinth led you

Then how you lov'd, how eagerly imbrac'd.
How oft you swore, by all your dangers past,
That with my life your love should ever last !
Ah, perjur'd *Theseus*, I thy love survive,
If one forsaken and expos'd does live.
Had you slain me, as you my Brother slew,
You'd then absolv'd your self from ev'ry Vow,
Now both my present Grief denies me Rest,
And all, that a wilde Fancy can suggest
Of dreadful Ills to come, distracts my Breast.
Before my eyes a thousand deaths appear,
I live, yet suffer all the deaths I fear.
Sometimes I think that Lions there do go,
And scarce dare trust my sight, that 'tis not so.
Imagine that fierce Wolves are howling there,
And at th' imagin'd Noise shrink up with fear.
Then think what Monsters from the Sea may rise,
Or fancy bloody Swords before my eyes.
But most I dread to be a Captive made,
And see these hands in servile works imploy'd,

Unworthy

ARIADNE to THESEUS. 41

Unworthy my Extraction from a Line
On one side Royal, and on both Divine :
And, (which my indignation more would move,)
Unworthy her whom *Theseus* once did love.

If tow'rds the Sea I look, or tow'rds the Land,
Objects of horreur still before me stand.

Nor dare I look tow'rds Heaven, or hope to find
Aid from those Gods who chang'd my *Theseus's* mind.

If Beasts alone within this Island stay,

Behold me left to them a helpless Prey !

If men dwell here they must be Savage too,

This Soyl, this Haven made gentle *Theseus* so.

Would *Athens* never had my Brother slain,

Nor for his paid so many lives again.

(wound,
Would thy strong Arm had never given the

Which struck the doubtful Monster to the ground,

Nor I had given the guiding Thread to Thee,

Which, to my own destruction, set Thee free.

Let the unknowing World thy Conquest praise,

It does not *Ariadne's* wonder raise :

So

So hard a Heart, unarm'd, might safely scorn
 The strength and sharpness of the Monsters horn
 If Flint or Steel could be secure of wound,
 No room for fear could in that Breast be found.
 Curst be the sleep which seal'd these eyes so fast!
 Curst, that begun, it did not ever last!
 For ever curst be that officious Wind,
 Which fill'd thy Sails, and in my ruin joyn'd! (kill'd!
 Curst hand which me, and which my Brother
 (With what Misfortunes our sad House 't has fill'd!)
 And curst the Tongue, which, with soft words be-
 And empty Vows, a poor beleiving Maid! (tray'd,
 Sleep, and the Winds against me had combin'd
 In vain, if perjur'd *Thesens* had not joyn'd,

Poor *Ariadne*, thou must perish here,
 Breath out thy Soul in strange and hated Air,
 Nor see thy pitying Mother shed one Tear:
 Want a kind hand which thy fix'd eyes may close,
 And thy stiff Limbs may decently compose.

Thy

Thy Carcass to the Birds must be a Prey.
 Thus *Theseus* all thy Kindness does repay!
 Mean while to *Athens* your swift Ship does run;
 There tell the wondring Crow'd what you have done,
 How the mix'd Prodigy you did subdue.
 The Beast and Man, how with one stroke you slew.
 Describeth the Lab'rinth, and how taught by me,
 You scap'd from all those perplex'd Mazes free.
 Tell, in return, what generous things you've done:
 Such Gratitude will all your Triumphs Crown!
 Sprung sure from Rocks, and not of humane Race!
 Thy Cruelty does thy great Line disgrace.
 Yet could'st thou see, as barbarous as thou art,
 These dismal looks, sure they would touch thy
 heart.
 You cannot see, yet think you saw me now
 Fix'd to some Rock, as if I there did grow,
 And trembling at the Waves which roul below.
 Look on my torn, and my disorder'd hairs, (tears.
 Look on my Robe wet through with show'rs of
 With

With the cold blasts see my whole body shakes,
And my numm'd hand unequal Letters makes.
I do not urge my hated Merit now,
But yield, this once, that you do nothing ow.
I neither sav'd your Life, nor set you free ;
Yet therefore must you force this death on Me ?
Ah ! see this wouuded Breast worn out with sighs,
And these faint Arms stretch'd to the Seas and Skies
See these few hairs yet spair'd by grief and rage,
Some pity let these flowing Tears engage.
Turn back, and, if I'm dead when you return,
Yet lay my Ashes in their peaceful Urn.

HER.

HERMIONE

T O

ORESTES

B Y

Mr. PULTENET.

The ARGUMENT.

Hermione, *the Daughter of Menelaus and Helena, was by Tyndarus her Grandfather (to whom Menelaus had committed the Government of his House when he went to Troy) contracted to Orestes. Her Father Menelaus, not knowing thereof, had betroth'd her to Pyrrhus, the Son of Achilles, who returning from the Trojan Wars, stole her away. Whereupon she writes to Orestes as follows.*

THis, dear Orestes, this with health to you,
 From her that was your Wife and Cofin too;
 Your Cofin still, but oh! that dearer Name
 Of Wife, another now does falsely claim.

What

What Woman can, I have already done,
Yet I'm confin'd by rough *Achilles's* Son.

• With much of Pain, and all the Art I knew,
I strove to shun him, yet all wou'd not do.
Stand off, said I, foul Ravisher, take heed,
My injur'd Husband will revenge this deed;
Yet he more deaf than angry Tempests are,
To his loath'd Chamber drag'd me by the hair.
Had *Troy* still stood, had every *Grecian* Dame
Become a Prey to th' haughry Victors flame;
What cou'd I more have suffer'd than I do?
Far more than poor *Andromache* e'er knew.
But oh my Dear! if, as I have for thee,
Thou hast a tender care, or thought for me,
Come bravely on, and as robb'd Tygers bold,
Snatch me half Murther'd from the Monsters hold.
Can you pursue each petty Robber's life,
And yet thus tamely lose a Ravish'd Wife?
Think how my Father *Menelaus* rag'd
For his lost Queen, think what a War he wag'd,
When pow'rful *Greece* was in his Cause engag'd.

HERMIONE to ORESTES. 47

Had he sat quietly, and nothing try'd,
 As once she was, she'd still been *Paris* Bride.
 Prepare no Fleet, you will no forces need,
 By you, and only you, I wou'd be freed.
 Not but wrong'd Marriage is a Cause alone
 Sufficient for th' ingaging World to own.
 Sprung from the Royal *Pelopean* Line,
 You are no less by Blood than Marriage mine.
 These double Ties a double Love perswade,
 And each sufficient to deserve your Aid.
 I to your Arms was by my Guardian given,
 The only Bliss I wou'd have beg'd from Heaven.
 But that unknown (O my unhappy Fate!)
 My Father gave me to the Man I hate.
 Just were those Infant Vows to you I made,
 But this last Act had all those Vows betray'd.
 Too well he knows what 'tis to be in Love,
 How can he then my Passion disapprove?
 Since Love himself has felt, he will, nay must
 Allow this Passion in his Daughter just.

My

48 HERMIONE to ORESTES.

My Fate resembles my wrong'd Father's Case,
And *Pyrrhus* is that Theif that *Paris* was.

Let my proud Gaoler the brave deeds run o're,
Count all the Laurels his great Parents wore,
What e're his cou'd, yours greater did, and more.

Let him Claim Kindred with some God above,
You are descended from the mighty *Jove*.

Brave as you are, I wish 'twere understood
By something else, than by *Ægisthus* blood;
Yet you are innocent, Fate drew the Sword,
And a religious Duty gave the word.

With this the Tyrant does my Lord disgrace,
And what's still worse, dares do it to my Face:
Whilst burst with Envy, I am forc'd to be
Rack't, and tormented with his Blasphemy.

Shall my *Orestes* be abus'd, and I

As one that's unconcern'd sit careless by?

No, though disabled, and of Arms bereft,

Yet as a Woman, I have one way left,

Tears

Tears I can shed, such as will yield relief
 To my sick Mind, choak'd with excess of grief;
 For when the big charg'd Storm hath lost its power,
 It sighs it self into a silent shower.
 This I can do, whilst by each other prest,
 The dewy Pearls run trickling o're my breast.
 But how shou'd I this fatal woe escape?
 All our whole Race was subject to a Rape:
 Ineed not tell, how in soft Feathers drest,
 The wanton God his softer Nymph possess'd;
 How through the deep in unknown ships convey'd
Hippodame was from her Friends betray'd;
 How the fair *Tyndaris* by force detain'd,
 By th' *Amyclæan* brethren was regain'd.
 How afterwards by all the Grecian Power
 She was brought back from the *Idæan* shore.
 I scarce remember that sad day, and yet,
 Young as I was, I do remember it.
 Her Brothers wept, her Sister to remove
 Her Fears, call'd on the Gods, and her own *Jove*.

E

Mother,

Mother, said I, in a weak mournful Tone,
 Will you be gone, and leave me here alone?
 When you are gone why shou'd I stay behind?
 All this I spoke, but spoke it to the Wind.
 Now like the rest of my curst Pedigree,
 By this loath'd Wretch I am detain'd from Thee.
 The brave *Achilles* wou'd have blam'd his Son,
 Nor had he liv'd, wou'd this have e're be done.
 He ne're had thought it lawful to divide
 Those two, whom Marriage had so firmly ty'd.
 What is't, ye Gods, that thus provokes your hate,
 Or what curs'd Star rules my unhappy Fate?
 Why am I plagu'd by your injurious power,
 Robb'd of my Parents in a tender hour?
 He to the War, she with her Lover fled,
 Though living both, yet both to me were dead.
 No babling words half fram'd upon thy tongue
 Lull'd me to soft repose when I was young.
 Your tender neck was ne're imbrac'd by me,
 Nor sat I ever smiling on your knee,

You

HERMIONE to ORESTES. 51

You never tended me, nor was I led
By thee (dear Mother) to my Marriage-bed.
At your return, I saw, but knew you not,
So sure my Mother's Face I had forgot.
I gaz'd, and gaz'd, but knew no Feature there,
Yet thought 'twas you, 'cause so Divinely fair.
Such was our ignorance, even you, alas! (was,
Ask'd your own Daughter, where your daughter
Thou, my *Orestes*, wert my sole delight,
Yet thee too I must lose, unless you fight.
Pyrrhus withholds me from thy Arms, that's all
Hermione has gain'd by *Ilium's* fall.

Soon as the early Harbinger of day
Gilds the glad Orb with his resplendent Ray ;
My Grief's made gentler by th' approaching light,
And some pain seems to vanish with the night ;
But when a Darkness o're the Earth is spread,
And I return all pensive to my Bed, (tains flow,
Tears from my eyes, as streams from Foun-
I shun this Husband, as I'd shun a Foe.

Oft grown unmindful through distractivè Cares,
I've stretch'd my Arms, and touch'd him un-
wares ;

Strait then I check the wandring Sense, and fly
To the Bed's utmost limits, yet I lie
Restless ev'n there, and think I'm still too nigh. }
Oft I for *Pyrrhus* have *Orestes* said,
But blest the Error which my Tongue had made.
Now by that Royal God, whose frown can make
The Vassal Globe of his Creation shake,
Th' Almighty Sire of our unhappy Race,
And by the Sacred Urn that does imbrace
Thy Father's dust, whose once loud blood may boast
Thou in repose hast laid his sleeping Ghost ;
I'll either live my dear *Orestes's* Wife,
Or to untimely Fate resign my Life.

LEANDER

TO

HERO.

BY

Mr. TATE.

The ARGUMENT.

Leander accustomed nightly to swim over the Hellespont to visit Hero (Priestess of Venus Temple) being at last hinder'd by Storms from his wonted course, sends her the following Epistle.

R Eceive this Letter from *Leander*, fraught
With Service, which he rather would have
brought.

(crown
Read with a smile, — and yet, if thou wouldst
My wiser wishes, read them with a frown.

That Anger from thy kindness will proceed,
Cause of *Leander* thou canst only read.

The Seas rage high, and scarce could we prevail
With the most daring Mariner to sail.

Embark'd at last, and sculking in the Hold,
My stealth is to my jealous Parents told,

As much too tim'rous they, as I too bold.

I writ, since writing was my sole relief,

And o're the dewy sheets thus breath'd my grief.

Blest Letter, go, my tenderest thoughts convey,

To her warm Lip thy Signets she will lay;

And with a Kiss dissolve thy Seals away.

Sev'n tedious nights guiltless of sleep I've stood,

Sigh'd with the winds, and murmur'd with the flood;

Then climbing th' utmost Clifts her Coast to view,

My Tears, like Glasses, th' Object nearer drew :

By th' adverse winds and waves detain'd on shore,

My thoughts run all our former Pleasures o're,

And in soft Scenes of Fancy re-injoy

The bliss that did our Infant Loves employ.

'Twas

It was night (a Curse on the Impert'nent light
That pry'd and marr'd the pleasures of that night)
When first I swam the Ford; while *Cynthias* beams,
Look'd pale, and trembled for me in the streams
My drooping Arms, in hopes they shall at length
Imbrace thy neck, feel fresh supplies of strength
The wondring Waves to their new Fury yield,
Not *Triton's* faster plow the liquid Field.

Soon on the Temples Spire your Torch I spy'd,
Fixt like a Star my watery Course to guide;
Which Planet-like, shoots vigour through my
veins;

The warmth of my Immortal Love sustains
In the cold Flood, Lives perishing remains.

But now the gentlest Star that blest my way,
Your bright self on the Turret I survey.
Then with redoubled strokes the Waves divide,
And by my *Hero* am at last descry'd:
Scarce could your careful Confident restrain,
But you would plunge, and meet me in the Main.

And made so far your kind Endeavors good,
 That Ankle deep on the Fords brink you stood;
 And seem'd the new ris'n *Venus* of the Flood.

The shore now gain'd, to your dear Arms I flew,
 All dropping as I was with briny Dew;
 Nor prov'd for that a more unwelcom Guest;
 Your warm lip to my bloudless cheek you prest,
 Nor felt my Locks distilling on your Breast,
 Your hasty Robes are o're my shoulders thrown,
 To shroud my shivering Limbs, you stript your
 Forgetting how your too officious Care, (own:
 Left thee (my tend'rest part) expos'd to Air.
 The night, and we are conscious to the rest,
 Delights that ought not, cannot be exprest.
 We knew short space was to our pleasures set,
 And therefore lov'd not at the common rate.
 But 'th' utmost Fury of your Flames imploy'd,
 The Minutes flew less fast than we enjoy'd, (wrought,
 With such dispatch that nights dear joys we
 To recollect would make an Age of thought.

At length the sickning Stars began t' expire,
 And I with them am summon'd to retire.
 Confus'dly then we our Love task dispatch,
 Ten thousand Kisses in a Minute snatch.
 Your Woman chid that I so long delay'd,
 You prest me close, then ask'd me why I stay'd.
 My stay you first reprov'd, and then my haste,
 Nor cry'd Farewel; till you had clasp'd me fast.
 Day broke ere we our Am'rous strife could end;
 Then sighing I to the cold *Beach* descend, (steep,
 Trust me, the Sea from your dear Coasts seems
 And all the way methinks I climb the deep.
 But when revisiting your shores, I seem
 Descending still, and rather fall than swim.
 I loath my Native Soil, and only prize
 That Region where my Loves dear Treasure lies.
 Why is not *Sestos* to *Abydos* joyn'd?
 Since we united are in heart and mind.
 The same our hopes' our fears, and our desires,
 Love is our Life, and one Love both inspires.

But

But ah ! what Mis'ries on that Love attend,
Whose Joys on humerous Seas and Winds depend ?
I by their quarrel lose, forc'd to delay
My tender Visit, till they end the Fray.

When first I crost the Gulph, the *Dolphins* gaz'd,
The Sea Nymphs fled, the *Tritons* were amaz'd.
But now no more I seem a Prodigy,
But pass for an Inhabitant o'th' Sea.
And since my passage is by Storms withstood,
I'm nightly mist by th' Brothers of the Flood.
Oft have I curs'd the tedious way, but oh !
I wish in vain that tedious passage now.
Yield me again, kind Floods, my tiresome way,
'Twas never half so tiresome as my Stay.
Must then my Halcyon Love all Winter sleep,
And n'r launch forth into a troubled Deep ?
Must I desist my Homage to perform,
And sculk at home for ev'ry peevish Storm ?
If thus the Summer Gusts detain my course,
How shall I through the Winter Surges force ?

Absence

Absence ev'n then I shall not long sustain,
 But boldly plunge into the raging Main,
 And if the swelling Floods not soon assuage,
 I'll make my boasting good, and dare their rage.
 My vent'rous scape shall in your Arms be blest,
 Or if I'm lost, my Anxious Love find rest.
 The Waves at least will do my Corps the grace
 To waft it to my wonted landing place:
 Or of its own accord the Amorous Clay,
 Will thither float, nor lose so known a way!
 I guess your Kindness will ev'n then perform
 To the cold Trunk, what you were wont when

Warm;

Your self dismantling, you will shroud me o're,
 And grieve to find your bosoms warmth no more
 Have power, my vital spirits to restore.
 If this sad Fancy discompose thy Breast,
 Think 'twas but Fancy, and resume thy rest.
 Invoke the Watry Pow'rs (thy Prayers are Charms)
 To assuage the storm, and yield me to thy Arms.

But

But when to your dear Mansion I arrive,
Loose ev'ry Wind, and let the Tempest drive.
'Twill give my stay pretence, nor can you chide
Whilst Thunder pleads so loudly on my side.
'Till then permit this letter to supply
The Author's place, and in thy Bosom lie.
Lodg'd in thy Breast, my Passion 'twill impart,
And whisper its soft Message to thy Heart.

HERO'S

HERO'S
ANSWER
TO
LEANDER.

BY

The same Hand.

W Ith such delight I read your Letter o're,
Your Presence only could have giv'n
me more.

Excuse my Passion if it soar above

Your thought ; no man can judge of Womans love.

With Bus'ness you, or Pleasures may sustain

The Pangs of Absence, and divert the Pain.

The

The Hills, the Vales, the Woods, and Streams
are stor'd

With Game, and Profit with Delight afford.

Whilst Gins for Beasts, and Snares for Fowl you set,
You smile, and your own amorous Chains forget.

Ten thousand helps besides affect your Cure,

Whilst Womens sole Relief is to endure.

Or, with my Confident I hold discourse,

Debating what should interrupt your Course :

Or viewing from a loft the troubled Tide,

Mix in the Fray, and with the Tempest chide.

Or in the Storms least Interval suspect

Your stay, and almost charge you with neglect.

I seek your footsteps on the Sands in vain,

The Sands no more confess thee than the Main.

I watch th' arriving Barks, and never fail

To inquire of you, and write by every Sail.

Still as the setting Sun restores the Night,
(The Light to me more welcome than the Night,)

I fix my flaming Torch to guide my Love,
Nor shines there any friendlier Star above.
Then with my Work or Book the time I cheat,
And 'midst the Task *Leander's* Name repeat.
My wedded thoughts no other Theme pursue,
I talk a hundred things — but all of you.
What think'st thou, Nurse, does my *Leander* come?
Or waits he till his Parents sleep at home?
For he is forc'd to steal his Passage there,
As nightly we by stealth admit him here.
Think'st Thou that now he strips him in the Bay,
Or is already plung'd, and on his way?
Whilst the poor Soul with tedious watching spent,
Makes half Replies, and Nodding gives Assent.
Yet cannot I the smallest pause allow,
But cry, he is launch'd forth for certain now.
Then ev'ry Moment through the Window peep;
With greedy Eyes examin all the Deep;
And whisper to the Floods a tender Prayer
In your behalf, as if I spy'd you there.

Or to beguile my Grievs my Ear incline,
And take each gentle Breezes Voice for Thine:
At last, surpriz'd with sleep, in Dreams I gain
That Bliss, for which I wak'd so long in vain.
To shroud you then my shoulders I divest,
And clasp you shivering to my warmer Breast,
A Lover need not be inform'd the Rest. (ploy,
These Pleasures oft my slumb'ring thoughts im
But still th'are Dreams, and yield no solid Joy.
Tho' ne're so lively the fruition be,
To fill my Bliss I must have very Thee.
At present, I confess, the Seas are rough,
But were last Night compos'd, and calm enough;
Why did you then my longing hopes delay?
Why disappoint me with a total stay?
Is it your Fear that makes my wishes vain?
When rougher, you have oft engag'd the Main;
If it be Fear, that friendly Fear retain,
Nor visit me till you securely may;
Your danger would afflict me more than stay.

Dread

Dread every Gust that blows, But oh! my Mind
 Misgives, lest you prove various as that Wind. If
 If e're you change, your Error secret keep,
 And in blest Ignorance permit me sleep.
 Not that I am inform'd y' are chang'd at all,
 But absent Lovers fear what e're may fall.
 Detain'd by th' Floods, your stay I will not blame;
 But less I dread the Floods than some new Flame.
 Be hush'd ye Winds, ye raging Billows sleep;
 And yield my Love safe passage through the deep.
 Blest sign, the Taper sparkles whilst I pray,
 A Guest i'th' Flame! *Leander's on his way!*
 Our Household Altar yields propitious signs,
 From which my Nurse your swift approach divine.
 The Crickets too of your arrival warn,
 And say our Number shall increase e're Morn.
 Come, gentle Youth, and with thy presence make
 The glad Conjecture true, the Day will break,
 And marr our bliss, prevent the hastning Morn;
 To me and Loves forsaken Joys return.

My bed without Thee will afford no Rest,
There is no Pillow like *Leander's* Breast.
Dost thou suspect the time will be too short?
Or want'st thou strength th' adventure to support?
If this detain thee, Oh! no longer stay,
I'll plunge and meet Thee in the Flood half way.
Thus in the verdant Waves our Flames shall meet,
And danger make the soft embrace more sweet.
Our Love's our own, which yet we take by stealth,
Like Midnight Misers from their hidden Wealth.
'Twixt Decency and Love unhappy made,
Whilst Fame forbids what our Desires perswade.
How art thou nightly snatch'd from me away?
To dare the Floud when Sailers keep the Bay.
Yet be advis'd thou Conqueror of the Tide,
Nor in thy youthful Strength so much confide.
Think not thine Arms can more than Oars prevail;
Nor dare to swim, when Pilots fear to Sail.
With much regret I cautiously perswade,
And almost wish my Counsel disobey'd.

Yet when to the rough Main my Eyes I turn,
Methinks I never can enough forewarn :
Nor does my last Nights Vision less affright,
(Tho' expiated with many a Sacred Rite,)
A sporting *Dolphin*, whilst the Floud retir'd,
Lay hid i'th' Ooze, and on the *Beach* expir'd.
What e'er the Dream portend, as yet reside
In the safe Port, nor trust th' inconstant Tide.
The Storm (too fierce to last) will soon decay,
Then with redoubled speed redeem your stay.—
Till then these sheets some pleasure may impart,
They bring what most you prize, your *Hero's* heart.

F 2

LAODAMIA

LAODAMIA

TO PROTESILAUS.

BY
THO. FLATMAN, Esq;

The ARGUMENT.

Protesilaus, lying Windbound at Aulis, in the Grecian Fleet, design'd for the Trojan War, his Wife Laodamia sends this following Epistle to Him.

HEalth to the gentle Man of War, and may
What *Laodamia* sends, the Gods convey.
The Wind that still in *Aulis* holds my Dear,
Why was it not so cross to keep him here?

Let

LAODAMIA to PROTESILAUS. 69

Let the Wind raise an *Hurricane* at Sea,
 Were he but safe and warm ashore with me.
 Ten thousand kisses I had more to give him, (him:
 Ten thousand cautions, and soft words to leave
 In haste he left me, summon'd by the Wind,
 (The Wind to barbarous Mariners only kind.)
 The Seaman's pleasure, is the Lover's pain,
 (*Protesilaus* is from my bosom ta'en!)
 As from my faltering tongue half speeches fell,
 (Scarce could I speak that wounding word *Farewel*.)
 A merry Gale (at Sea they call it so)
 Fill'd every Sail with joy, my breast with wo,
 There went my dear *Protesilaus* —
 While I could see thee, full of eager pain,
 My greedy eyes epicuriz'd on Thine,
 When thee no more, but thy spread Sails I view,
 I look'd, and look'd, till I had lost them too;
 But when nor thee, nor them I could descry,
 And all was Sea that came within my eye,

They say (for I have quite forgot) they say
I strait grew pale, and fainted quite away ;
Compassionate *Ipbiclus*, and the good old Man,
My Mother too, to my assistance ran ;
In hast cold Water on my face they threw,
And brought me to my self with much ado,
They meant it well, to me it seem'd not so,
Much kinder had they been to let me go :
My anguish with my Soul together came,
And in my heart burst out the former flame :
Since which, my uncomb'd locks unheeded flow,
Undrest, forlorn, I care not how I go ;
Inspir'd with Wine, thus *Bacchus* frolick rout
Stagger'd of old, and straggled all about.
Put on, Put on, the happy Ladies say,
Thy Royal Robes fair *Laodamia*.
Alas ! before *Troy's* Walls my Dear does lie,
What pleasure can I take in *Tyrian* dye ?
Shall Curles adorn my head, an Helmet thine ?
In bright Tissues, thou in Armour shine ?

Rather

LAODAMIA to PROTESILAUS. 71

Rather with studied negligence I'll be
As ill, if not disguised worse than Thee.

O *Paris* ! rais'd by ruins ! may'st thou prove
As fatal in thy War, as in thy Love !

O that the *Grecian Dame* had been less fair,
Or thou less lovely hadst appear'd to Her !

O *Menelaus* ! timely cease to strive,
With how much blood wilt thou thy loss retrieve ?

From me, ye Gods, avert your heavy doom,
And bring my Dear, laden with Laurels home.

But my heart fails me, when I think of War,
The sad reflection costs me many a tear :

I tremble when I hear the very name
Of every place where thou shalt fight for fame.

Besides th' adventurous *Ravisher* well knew
The safest Arts his Villany to pursue ;

In noble dress he did her heart surprize,
With gold he dazled her unguarded Eyes,
He back'd his Rape with Ships and armed Men,

Thus storm'd, thus took the beauteous Fortrefs in.

Against the power of Love and force of Arms
 There's no security in the brightest Charms,
Hector I fear, much do I *Hector* fear,
 A Man (they say) experienc'd in war.
 My Dear, if thou hast any Love for me,
 Of that same *Hector* prithee mindful be,
 Fly him be sure, and every other Foe,
 Lest each of them should prove an *Hector* too.
 Remember, when for fight thou shalt prepare,
 Thy *Laodamia* charg'd thee, have a care,
 For what wounds thou receiv'st, are giv'n to her.
 If by thy valour *Troy* must ruin'd be,
 May not the ruin leave one scar on thee;
 Sharer in th' honour from the danger free!
 Let *Menelaus* fight, and force his way
 Through the false *Ravisher's* Troops to his *Helena*,
 Great be his Victory, as his cause is good,
 May he swim to her in his Enemies blood.
 Thy Case is different: --- may'st thou live to see
 (Dearest) no other Combatant but me!

Ye generous *Trojans*, turn your Swords away
 From his dear Breast, find out a nobler prey,
 Why should you harmless *Laodamia* slay?
 My poor good natur'd Man did never know
 What 'tis to fight, or how to face a Foe;
 Yet in Love's field what wonders can he do?
 Great is his Prowess and his Fortune too;
 Let them go fight, who know not how to woe.

Now I must own, I fear'd to let thee go,
 My trembling lips had almost told thee so. (draw,
 When from thy Father's House thou didst with-
 Thy fatal stumble at the door I saw,
 I saw it, sigh'd, and pray'd the sign might be
 Of thy return a happy Prophecie!
 I cannot but acquaint thee with my fear,
 Be not too brave, --- Remember, Have a care,
 And all my dreads will vanish into Air.

Among the *Grecians* some one must be found
 That first shall set his foot on *Trojan* ground;
 Unhappy

Unhappy she that shall his loss bewail,
Grant, O ye Gods, thy courage then may fail.

Of all the Ships, be thine the very last,
Thou the last man that lands; there needs no hast;
To meet a potent, and a treacherous foe;
Thou'lt land I fear too soon, tho' ne're so slow.
At thy Return ply every Sail and Oar,
And nimble leap on thy deserted shore,

All the day long, and all the lonely night
Black thoughts of thee my anxious Soul affright:
Darkness, to other Womens pleasures kind,
Augments, like Hell, the torments of my mind.
I court e'en Dreams, on my forsaken Bed,
False Joys must serve, since all my true are fled,
What's that same airy *Phantom* so like thee?
What wailings do I hear, what pangs see?
I wake, and hug my self, 'tis but a Dream. —
The *Grecian* Altars know I feed their flame,
The want of hallow'd wine my tears supply,
Which make the sacred fire burn bright and high.

When

When shall I clasp thee in these Arms of mine,
 These longing Arms, and lie dissolv'd in thine?
 When shall I have thee by thy self alone,
 To learn the wondrous Actions thou hast done?
 Which when in rapturous words thou hast begun
 With many, and many a kiss, prithee tell on,
 Such interruptions graceful pauses are,
 A Kiss in Story's but an halt in VVar.

But when I think of *Troy*, of winds, and waves,
 I fear the pleasant dream my hope deceives :
 Contrary winds in *Port* detain thee too,
 In spite of wind and tide why wouldst thou go ?
 Thus to thy Country thou wouldst hardly come,
 In spite of wind and tide thou went'st from home.
 To his own City *Neptune* stops the way,
 Revere the *Omen*, and the God's obey.
 Return ye furious *Grecians*, homeward fly,
 Your stay is not of Chance, but Destiny :
 How can your Arms expect desir'd success,
 That thus contend for an *Adulteress*?

But

But, let not me forefpeak you, no, --- set Sail,
And Heav'n betriend you with a prosperous gale!

Ye *Trojans*! with regret methinks I see
Your first encounter with your Enemy;
I see fair *Helen* put on all her Charms,
To buckle on her lusty Bridegroom's Arms;
She gives him Arms, and kisses she receives,
(I hate the transports each to other gives.)
She leads him forth, and she commands him come
Safely victorious, and triumphant home,
And he (no doubt) will make no nice delay,
But diligently do what e're she say;
Now he returns! --- see with what amorous speed
She takes the pond'rous Helmet from his head,
And Courts the weary Champion to her Bed.

We Women, too too credulous alas!

Think what we fear will surely come to pass.

Yet, while before before the Leagure thou dost lie,
Thy *Picture* is some pleasure to my Eye,

That,

That, I careſs in words moſt kind and free,
And lodge it on my Breſt, as I would thee ;
There muſt be ſomething in it more than Art,
'Twere very thee, could it thy mind impart ;
I kiſs the pretty *Idol*, and complain,
As if (like thee) 't would answer me again.

By thy return, by thy dear Self, I ſwear,
By our Loves Vows, which moſt Religious are,
By thy beloved Head, and thoſe gray Hairs
Which time may on it Snow, in future years,
I come, where e're thy fate ſhall bid thee go,
Eternal Partner of thy weal and woe,
So thou but live, tho' all the God's ſay No.

Farewel, --- but prethee very careful be
Of thy beloved Self (I mean) of me.

PHILLIS to DEMOPHOON.

B Y

Mr. *E D. FLOYD,*

The ARGUMENT.

Demophoon, *the Son of Theseus and Phædra, returning from the Trojan Wars, was by adverse Winds driv'n on the Thracian Shore, where he was Royally entertained; and received into familiarity by Phillis, Daughter of Lycurgus and Crustumena, King and Queen of Thrace; with whom, after he had a while remain'd, hearing of the Death of Menestheus (the Deposer of his Father) he went to take possession of his own Realm of Athens, yet with earnest protestations of returning within the space of one Month. But being detain'd past the appointed time by the distractions his People were under, he gave occasion to Phillis (impatient of delays) to write him this Epistle.*

P*hillis (who entertain'd thy Love and Thee, Faithless Demophoon) blames thy Perjury :*

How

How, when with pain we parted, didst thou mourn,
 And seem'dst to live alone for thy return!
 How didst thou limit my distress, and swear
 Within one month thy speedy presence here!
 Yet now four Moons are weary'd out, and see
 Thee still regardless of thy Vows and me.
 Hadst thou a tender sense to know the pain
 Of absent Lovers, who expect in vain,
 Thou would'st not call me hasty, nor upbraid
 These humble murmurs of a Wife betray'd.
 We're slow in our believing Ills, for I
 Flatter'd my self that yet I shou'd not die:
 My self I've oft deluded, ---- thought thee kind
 --- Thy Ship returning with a prosp'rous wind: ---
 Theseus I've curst, and yet unjustly him,
 For thou perhaps art Author of thy Crime.
 The dang'rous shoals of *Hebrus* made me mourn,
 As fancying thee expos'd in thy return.
 Oft for thy health I've sought the Gods by pray'r,
 And Incense burnt to place thee in their care.

When

When e're the Wind stood fair, I fancy'd straight
 Thy sudden presence, or thy certain fate.
 Then have I study'd reasons for thy stay,
 And urg'd my wit to favour thy delay :
 Yet dost not thou the sense of Vows retain,
 To Gods, and me, made equally in vain.
 Thy strictest Vows did mix with common Air,
 Nor does thy tardy Fleet the fault repair.
 Thy absence fully does my Crime reprove,
 And seems design'd to pay so cheap a Love.
 My only fault was loving easily,
 And yet that fault claims gratitude in thee.
 Where's now thy faith, --- thy suppliant hands,
 --- : and where
 The God profan'd by thy fallacious pray'r ?
 Where's *Hymen* now that should our hearts unite,
 Bless and secure our conjugal delight ?
 First, by the Sea thou swor'st thy meaning just,
 The Sea that then thou wert about to trust :
 Thou

Thou swor'st by thy pretended Grandfire's name,
 The God that does rebellious storms reclaim :
 By *Venus* and by Love's Artillery,
 The Instruments of mighty woes to me :
 By *Juno*, who of Marriage Vows takes care,
 And *Ceres*, who the hallow'd Torch does bear :
 Shou'd these wrong'd Pow'rs be just, cou'dst thou
 withstand

The angry stroke of an Almighty hand ?
 Thy Ships I did repair, thy Sails improve,
 And strengthen'd the deserter of my Love.
 I gave thee Oars as Instruments of speed,
 And sharpen'd all the darts by which I bleed.
 Thy words,---- Thy Kindred Gods---- what e're
 was fain'd,
 With Joy I heard, with Faith I entertain'd :
 View'd with regard thy false commanded tears,
 Thy artful sorrow, and thy seeming fears.
 Thy Arts of Love to me thou might'st have spar'd,
 For I was too unhappily prepar'd.

Nor shou'd I grieve to have well treated Thee,
And limited my hospitality,
But to admit thee loosely to my breast,
Is Treason, fatal to my present rest.
Ah ! had I dy'd before that evening came,
I then had dy'd in peace, secure of fame.
Yielding, I hop'd thy gratitude might move,
And shewing mine, deserve thy utmost love.
But 'tis inglorious thus to have betray'd
(All pitiless) a frail believing Maid :
A Maid that lov'd thee, thou hast robb'd of fame,
And may no greater honour reach thy name.
In *Athens*, when thy Statue shall be plac'd
Near thy great Father with his Trophies grac'd :
When *Scyron* and *Procrustes* shall be read,
Sciris and *Minotaure* in triumph lead :
Thebes quite reduc'd, the *Centaur's* overcome,
Hell storm'd, and the black King disturb'd at home,
Thy hated Image thus inscrib'd shall End,—
—— *He who betray'd his Mistress and his Friend.*

PHILLS to DEMOPHOON. 83

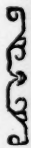
Of all thy mighty Father has atchiev'd,
Thou lik'st, that *Ariadne* was deceiv'd:
What he repented, thou dost still admire,
And only to his treachery art Heir:
(Unenvy'd) she enjoys a nobler Mate,
And drawn by harness'd Tygres, rides in state.
The *Thracian's*, whom I scorn'd, now shun my bed,
As one by strange polluted hands mislead.
Says one, let learned *Athens* be her place,
Some nobler Hand shall govern warlike *Thrace*.
The End proves all — and may he never hit
His rash presage, who dares condemn thee yet,
For shou'dst thou now return, each will conclude
I study'd with my own my Country's good:
I've fail'd, alas! Thou no review dost make.
Or of my Palace or the Crystal Lake.
My eyes retain thy graceful Image, when
With mournful Bows thou bad'st me hopeagen.
Thou did'st imbrace me, and with such delay,
That long breath'd kisses seem'd to mean thy stay;

Thou did'st exchange, and mix our tears, and swear
The Wind was inauspicious, when 'twas fair ;
When our divorce thou cou'dst no more decline,
Thou said'st, *Expect me* — *Phyllis, I am thine* :
Him I expect, who meant to come no more,
And Ships no more design'd to touch this shore :
Yet still I hope -- ah ! come, tho' past thy time,
That thy delay may be thy only Crime.
Some wanton Maid (perhaps) seduces Thee,
And buys thy love with cheap discourse of me.
Thou can'st not be unmindful who I am,
Consult thy self for my neglected name ;
Phyllis thy Constant, hospitable Friend,
Who did her harbour and assistance lend :
Love, Empire, All submitted to thy will,
Who gave thee much, and wish'd to give thee still ;
Lycurgus's Land surrender'd to thy sway,
And to thy Hand its Scepter did convey,
As for as *Rhodope* and *Hæmus* go,
And the soft streams of sacred *Hebrus* flow ;

Thee

Thee my last blushes blest, thy loves long toils
 Rewarded with my conquer'd Virgin Spoils.
 The howling Fiends, and ominous Birds of Night,
 With dismal notes perform'd each Nuptial Rite:
 With her curl'd Snakes the fierce *Alecto* came,
 To light our Tapers with infernal flame.
 On Rocks I walk ---- and o're the barren Sand,
 Far as my Eyes can reach the spacious Strand;
 Look out all hours to see what Wind stands fair
 By Earths cold damp untir'd, or Heav'n's bleak air;
 When any distant Sail I chance to spy,
 I fancy thy loose Streamers drawing nigh:
 Launch'd into Sea, the tardy Gales I chide,
 And to meet thee I stem th' impetuous Tide;
 When their approach declares my hopes are vain
 I fainting crave th' assistance of my Train.
 Above the Bay, which the spent Billows blocks
 And form's a Precipice of pendant Rocks,
 Thence my despair presented me a grave,
 And nought but thy return my life shall save,

May some kind Wave to thy own Shore convey,
And at thy feet thy floating *Phillis* lay,
Thy melting heart this dismal sound will groan,
In these embraces joyn'd, we meet too soon —
Oft have I thirsted for a pois'nous draught,
As oft a death from some kind Poniard sought ;
Oft round that neck a filken Twine I cast,
Which once thy dear perfidious Arms imbrac'd.
By death I'll heal my present Infamy,
But stay to choose the speediest way to die.
This sad short Epitaph shall speak my doom,
And fix my mournful story on my Tomb,
*This Monument did false Demophoon build
With the cold Ashes of his Mistress fill'd;
He was the cause, and hers the hand that kill'd.*



OE N O N E
T O
P A R I S.
B Y

Mr. J O H N C O O P E R.

The A R G U M E N T.

Hecuba, being with Child of Paris, dream'd she was delivered of a Firebrand: Priam, consulting the Prophets, was answer'd the Child shou'd be the Cause of the Destruction of Troy, wherefore Priam commanded it should be deliver'd to wild Beasts as soon as born; but Hecuba conveys it secretly to Mount Ida, there to be foster'd by the Shepherds, where he falls in love with the Nymph OEnone, but at length being known and own'd, he sails into Greece, and carries Helen to Troy, which OEnone hearing, writes him this Epistle.

R Ead this, (if your new Bride will suffer) read;
And no upbraidings from Mycena dread.

Only *OEnone* here does of her swain
(If he will let her call him hers) complain.
What God has robb'd me of your love and you ?
Or from what Crime of mine proceeds my woe ?
Misfortunes, when deserv'd, we may endure,
But when unjustly born, can find no Cure.

Tho' now a Prince, not yet so great you was,
When a fam'd Nymph, I stoop'd to your imbrace:
A Slave you was (forgive what I have said)
Slave as you was, I took you to my Bed,
Often, amidst your Flocks, beneath some shade
On Leaves and Flow'rs we amorously were laid.
As oft, upon the Straw, our joys we prov'd
In some low shed from Winter storms remov'd.
When you rose up to Hunt, I shew'd you game,
Surpris'd the Infant savage and his Dam,
Companion of your sports, the toils did place,
And chear'd the swift pac'd Hounds upon the chase,
Upon the Trees your sickle carv'd my name,
And ev'ry Beach is conscious of your flame.

Well

Well I remember that tall Poplar Tree,
(It's Trunk is fill'd, and with Records of me,) Which, may it live! on the Brooks margin set,
Has on it's knotty Bark these Verses writ:
When *Paris* live not to *OEnone* true,
Back *Xanthus* Streams shall to their fountains flow,
Turn! Turn ye streams! and *Xanthus* backwards
The faithless *Paris* has forgot his Vow. (goe!

Calm was our love, blest with delightful ease,
Till a black storm o'rcast my former peace,
When the three Heav'nly Beauties blest thine eyes,
Design'd Thee Umpire to bestow the prize.
As from your mouth the fatal Story came,
A swift cold trembling shot through all my frame.
To Ancient Sages my just doubts I bear,
And all conclude some dreadful mischief near.

Now the tall Pines into strong Barks you shape,
Which sweep the surface of the yielding deep,
From your swoln Eyes the Tears at parting crept,
Deny it not, nor be asham'd you wept:

(Your

(Your Love was then no injury to your Fame;
 You daily burn in a more shameful flame.)
 You wept, and on my Eyes you gazing stood,
 Whose falling Tears increas'd the briny Floud.
 About my Neck your wreathing Arms you flung,
 Cloſer than Vines to their lov'd Elms you clung:
 When for your ſtay you did the Tempeſts blame,
 How oft they laugh'd who knew the Ocean calm!
 'Midſt thouſand Kiſſes, when you'd bid farewell,
 Scarce could your tongue the fatal Meſſage tell.
 You are embarqu'd : Againſt your Gally's ſide
 The plying Oars beat up the foaming Tide :
 Till hurry'd from my ſight, your Ships I view,
 Then my Salt Tears the parched Sands bedew.
 Soon, ye Sea Gods, again ſoon may he come
 (Ifondly pray'd) but to my ruin ſoon.
 The Gods my wiſhes do ſucceſſful make,
 But all, alas ! for that curſt Strumpets ſake,
 My Pray'rs into anothers Arms have brought
 you back.

A vast high Rock there is, whose craggy sides,
Sustain the fury of incroaching Tides.
Your Sails hence spy'd I hardly could delay,
Plung'd in the deep, to meet you by the way;
When one I saw, while a short pause I made,
Upon the Deck in glorious Purple clad:
Gods! How I shook! Fear did my Soul possess
With horror to behold th' unusual dress.
As nearer to the shore your Vessel came,
I spy'd, O blasting sight! The charming Dame;
Nay more, —her wanton head (into the Sea
Why leapt I not?) upon your Bosom lay.
'Twas then I beat my Breast, and tore my Hair,
With all the symptomes of a deep despair.
I fill'd the Air with my distracted crys,
And *Ida's* Mount resounded with the Noise.
Thence with dire imprecations I remov'd
Unto those conscious Caves, where once we lov'd.
Hear me, ye Gods! may the curst *Helen* be
As wretched full as she has render'd me;

May

May, she complain of false and broken Vows,
And pine, like me, for a regardless Spouse.
Now they do charm, who from their Husbands fly,
And the wide Ocean plow, to follow thee ;
When a poor Shepherd, a small Flock you fed,
Then I, and only I, vouchsaf'd my Bed.
Nor think I sue to be in Courts ador'd,
And own'd the Daughter of all *Asia's* Lord ;
Tho' your great Parents need not be ashamed,
When 'mongst their many Children I am nam'd.
A Scepter would not ill become this hand,
So much I wish and merit to command.
Despise me not, because with you I lay,
And pass'd, on new fall'n leaves the well spent day;
For thy *OEnone's* worthy of a Bed,
Not with Green leaves but gawdy Purple spread.
Safe you may sleep and harmless in my Arms,
Your joys uninterrupted with alarms ;
But with my Rival thus you must not live,
For *Greece* in Arms demands the fugitive,
Ruin is all the dowry she can give.

Ask your grave Friends, with piercing wisdom
fraught,

fly, Whom many years have much experience taught,

Ask Sage *Antenor*, and your aged Sire,

If she's to be restor'd whom they require :

Base man ! your Country for her sake destroy'd,

Shame's on your part, and justice on their side.

Or can you think that she will constant prove,

Who was so easily intic'd to love ?

When once debauch'd, our Sex for ever burn

In lawless fires ; Vertue knows no return :

Dishonour never gives a second blow ?

And once a Whore she will be ever so.

ay; But her firm love that scruple has remov'd,

Vain man ! ev'n thus *Atrides* once she lov'd.

ad. Alone he lies poor cred'lous Cuckold now !

And does deplore what you e'rwhile must do.

Fool that he was to think she could be true !

Happy *Andromache* ! who justly art

Possessed of a firm and Loyal heart !

A Faith like hers thou hast beheld in me,
And *Hector's* Vertue should have shin'd in thee;
But thou art lighter than the sapless Leaf,
Of which the Autumn blasts the Trees bereave;
Or than the stalks of the well ripen'd Wheat
Made the VVinds sport by the Sun's parching heat.
Well I remember what your Sister said,
When the stronge God possess'd the furious Maid;
OEnone cease to plow up fruitless Lands,
And sow the Seed upon the barren Sands.
The *Grecian* Heifer comes who reaps thy joys,
The bane of *Troy*, and *Priam's* ancient House.
She comes! forbid it heav'n: And in the deep.
Now, Now ye Gods sink down the guilty Ship;
Now is the time to plunge it in the Floud,
It brings destruction, and is fraught with bloud.
She said: Her people snatch'd her from my view,
As through the Woods full of the God she flew.
Too true she spoke! my joys that Heifer proves,
Does in my Groves and Flowry Meadows move,
And all the pleasant pastures of my love.

Fair tho' she be, your *Helen* is a VVhore
 Whom each new face draws from her Native shore.
 With *Theseus* thus the false inconstant fled ;
 But he untouch'd restor'd the spotless Maid.
 Ah who can Faith to the forg'd Story yield ?
 His Veins with youthful blood and vigor fill'd,
 A Lover too ! could he his joys forbear ?
 And in possession of his heav'n despair ?
 Miscal not thus her ready flight a Rape,
 Her wicked self contriv'd the wish'd escape.
 But I, false as you are, have kept my Vows,
 Tho' your example would my Crimes excuse.

Long time I liv'd a Tenant of the Groves,
 The common object of the *Satyr's* loves,
 Me, *Faunus* too, who o're the Mountains fled,
 Pursu'd, with Leafy Chaplets on his head ;
 And *Phæbus*, who, but with much force, obtain'd
 That bliss for which the rest in vain complain'd.
 I tore my hair, while my soft Limbs he prest,
 And that curst face for which I was disgrac'd.

No

No sordid recompence of wealth I sought.
 That Creature's mean whose love is to be bought,
 But me the grateful God with knowledge stor'd,
 And the same Gifts for which himself's ador'd.
 For no one Plant the fertil earth does yield,
 But in it's Vertues I am amply skill'd.
 Wretch! of what use does thy vain knowledge (prove,
 No drug alas! can cure the wounds of love.
 Not *Phæbus*'s self the Author of our Art
 Could in this case guard his immortal heart :
 Nought or from earth, or heav'n can cure my (wound,
 In thee alone must my relief be found,
 My *Paris* can, and he must pity show,
 To her who merits all he can bestow ;
 For I am yours, with you of old did pass,
 In childish innocence my Infant days ;
 And I beseech you Gods to fix my doom,
 And give that blessing to the time to come.
 So in his Arms to whom my Youth I lent,
 Shall the remains of my blest life be spent.

A P A R A.

A

PARAPHRASE

On the Foregoing

EPISTLE

OF

OENONE

TO

PARIS.

BY

Mrs. A. B E H N.

TO thee, dear *Paris*, Lord of my Desires,
Once tender Partner of my softest Fires;
To thee I write, mine, whilst a Shepherds Swain,
But now a Prince, that Title you disdain.

H

Oh

Oh fatal Pomp, that cou'd so soon divide
What Love, and all our Vows so firmly ty'd!
What God, our Loves industrious to prevent,
Curst thee with power, and ruin'd my Content
Greatness, which does at best but ill agree
With Love, such Distance sets 'twixt Thee and Me.
Whilst thou a Prince, and I a Shepherdess,
My raging Passion can have no redress.
Wou'd God, when first I saw thee, thou hadst been
This Great, this Cruel, Celebrated thing.
That without hope I might have gaz'd and bow'd,
And mixt my Adoration with the Crow'd;
Unwounded then I had escap'd those Eyes,
Those lovely Authors of my Miseries.
Not that less Charms their fatal pow'r had dress'd,
But fear and Awe my Love had then suppress'd:
My unambitious Heart no Flame had known,
But what Devotion pays to Gods alone.
I might have wonder'd, and have wish'd that He,
Whom Heaven shou'd make me love, might look
like thee.

More

More in a silly Nymph had been a sin,
This had the height of my Presumption been.
But thou a Flock didst feed on *Ida's* Plain,
And hadst no Title, but *The lovely Swain*.
A Title ! which more Virgin Hearts has won,
Than that of being own'd King *Priam's* Son.
Whilst me a harmless Neighbouring Cottager
You saw, and did above the rest prefer.
You saw ! and at first sight you lov'd me too,
Nor cou'd I hide the wounds receiv'd from you,
Me all the Village Herdsmen strove to gain,
For me the Shepherds sigh'd and su'd in vain,
Thou hadst my heart, and they my cold disdain.
Not all their Offerings, Garlands, and first born
Of their lov'd Ewes, cou'd bribe my Native scorn,
My Love, like hidden Treasure long conceal'd,
Cou'd only, where 'twas destin'd, be reveal'd.
And yet how long my Maiden blushes strove
Not to betray the easie new-born Love.

But at thy sight the kindling Fire wou'd rise,
And I, unskill'd, declare it at my eyes.
But oh the Joy ! the mighty Ecstasie
Possess thy Soul at this Discovery.
Speechless, and panting at my feet you lay, (say.
And short-breath'd Sighs told what you cou'd not
A thousand times my hand with Kisses prest,
And look'd such Darts, as none cou'd e're resist.
Silent we gaz'd, and as my Eyes met thine, (mind!
New Joy fill'd theirs, new Love and shame fill'd
You saw the fears my kind disorders shows,
And broke your Silence with a thousand Vows!
Heavens, how you swore ! by ev'ry Pow'r Divine
You wou'd be ever true ! be ever mine !
Each God, a sacred witness you invoke, (broke.
And wish'd their Curse, when e're these Vows you
Quick to my Heart the perjur'd Accents ran,
Which I took in, believ'd, and was undone.
' Vows are Loves poyson'd Arrows, and the heart
So wounded, rarely finds a Cure in Art.

At least this heart which Fate has destin'd yours,
This heart unpractis'd in Loves mystick pow'rs,
For I am soft, and young as *April* Flowers.

Now uncontroul'd we meet, uncheck'd improve
Each happier Minute in new Joys of Love!
Soft were our hours! and lavishly the Day
We gave intirely up to Love, and Play.

Off to the cooling Groves, our Flocks we led,
And seated on some shaded, flowry Bed,
Watch'd the united wantons as they fed.

And all the day my list'ning Soul I hung
Upon the charming Musick of thy Tongue,
And never thought the blessed hours too long.

No Swain, no God like thee cou'd ever move,
Or had so soft an Art in whispering Love,
No wonder that thou wert Ally'd to *Jove*.

And when you pip'd, or sung, or danc'd, or spoke,
The God appear'd in every Grace, and Look.

Pride of the Swains, and Glory of the Shades,
The grief, and Joy of all the Love-sick Maids.

Thus whilst all hearts you rul'd without Controul,
I reign'd the absolute Monarch of your Soul.

Each *Beach* my Name yet bears, carv'd out by
thee,

Paris, and his *OEnone* fill each Tree;
And as they grow, the Letters larger spread,
Grow still a witness of my wrongs when dead!

Close by a silent silver Brook there grows
A Poplar, under whose dear gloomy Boughs
A thousand times we have exchang'd our Vows!
Oh may'st thou grow! to an endless date of years!
Who on thy Bark this fatal Record bears;

When Paris to OEnone proves untrue,
Back Xanthus Streams, shall to their fountains flow.

Turn! turn your Tide! back to your Fountains
run!

The perjur'd Swain from all his Faith is gone!

Curst be that day, may Fate point out the hour,
As Ominous in his black Kalender;

When

VWhen *Venus*, *Pallas*, and the VVife of *Jove*
 Descended to thee in the Mirtle Grove,
 In shining Chariots drawn by winged Clouds:
 Naked they came, no Veil their Beauty shrouds;
 But every Charm, and Grace expos'd to view,
 Left Heav'n to be survey'd and judg'd by you.
 To bribe thy voice, *Juno* wou'd Crowns bestow,
Pallas more gratefully wou'd dress thy Brow
 VWith wreaths of wit! *Venus* propos'd the choice
 Of all the fairest *Greeks*! and had thy Voice. (spife,
 Crowns, and more glorious wreaths thou didst de-
 And promis'd Beauty more than Empire prize!
 This when you told, Gods! what a killing fear
 Did over all my thivering Limbs appear?
 And I presag'd some ominous Change was near!
 The Blushes left my Checks, from every part
 The Blood ran swift to guard my fainting heart.
 You in my Eyes the glimmering Light perceiv'd
 Of parting Life, and on my pale Lips breath'd
 Such Vows, as all my Terrors undeceiv'd.

But soon the envying Gods disturb'd our Joys,
Declare thee great! and all my bliss destroys!

And now the Fleet is Anchor'd in the Bay
That must to *Troy* the glorious Youth convey.
Heavens! how you look'd! and what a Godlike
At their first Homage beautify'd your Face! (Grace
Yet this no wonder, or Amazement brought,
You still a Monarch were in Soul, and thought!
Nor cou'd I tell which most the sight augments,
Your Joys of Pow'r, or parting discontents. (glide,
You kist the tears which down my Cheeks did
And mingled yours with the soft falling tide,
And 'twixt your sighs a thousand times you said,
Cease my OEnone! Cease my charming Maid!
If Paris lives his Native Troy to see,
My lovely Nymph, thou shalt a Princess be!
But my Prophetick fear no faith allows,
My breaking heart resisted all thy Vows.
Ah must we part, I cry'd! those killing words
No further Language to my Grief affords.

Trem-

Trembling, I fell upon thy panting Breast,
Which was with equal Love, and grief oppress'd,
Whilst sighs and looks, all dying, spoke the rest.

About my neck my feeble arms I cast,
Not *Vines*, nor *Ivy* circle *Elms* so fast.

To stay, what dear excuses didst thou frame,
And fanciedst tempests when the Seas were calm?
How oft the winds contrary feign'd to be,
When they, alas, were only so to me!

How oft new Vows of lasting Faith you swore,
And 'twixt your Kisses all the old run o're?

But now the wisely Grave, who Love despise,
(Themselves past hope) do busily advise,
Whisper Renown, and Glory in thy Ear, (hear.
Language which Lovers fright, and Swains ne're
For *Troy* they cry! these Shepherds weeds lay
down,

(Crown!
Change Crooks for Scepters! Garlands for a

'But sure that Crown does far less easie sit,

'Than Wreaths of Flow'rs, less innocent and sweet.

'Nor

'Nor can they Beds of State so grateful be,
'As those of Moss, and new fal'n Leaves with me!

Now tow'rds the *Beach* we go, and all the way
The Groves, the Fern, dark Woods, and Springs
survey ;

That were so often conscious to the Rites
Of sacred Love, in our dear sto'n Delights.
VVith eyes all languishing, each place you view,
And sighing cry, *Adieu, dear Shades, Adieu !*
Then 'twas thy Soule'n doubted which to do,
Refuse a Crown, or those dear Shades forego !
Glory and Love ! the great dispute pursu'd,
But the false Idol soon the God subdu'd.

And now on Board you go, and all the Sails
Are loosned, to receive the flying Gales.
VVhilst I half dead on the forsaken Strand,
Beheld thee sighing on the Deck to stand,
VVasting a thousand Kisses from thy Hand.
And whilst I cou'd the lessening Vessel see,
I gaz'd, and sent a thousand Sighs to thee !

And

And all the Sea-born *Nereids* implore
Quick to return thee to our Rustick shore.

Now like a Ghost I glide through ev'ry Grove,
Silent, and sad as Death, about I rove,
And visit all our Treasuries of Love !

This Shade th' account of thousand Joy does hide,
As many more this murmuring Rivers side,
Where the dear Grass, as sacred, does retain
The print, where thee and I so oft have lain.

Upon this Oak thy Pipe, and Garland's plac'd,
That *Sycamore* is with thy Sheep-hook grac'd.

Here feed thy Flocks, once lov'd though now thy
scorn ;

Like me forsaken, and like me forlorn !

A Rock there is, from whence I cou'd survey
From far the blewish Shore, and distant Sea,
Whose hanging top with toyl I climb each day,
With greedy View the prospect I run o're,
To see what wish'd for ships approach our shore.

One day all hopeleſs on its point I ſtood,
 And ſaw a Veſſel bounding o're the Flood,
 And as it nearer drew, I cou'd diſcern
 Rich Purple Sails, Silk Cords, and Golden Stern,
 Upon the Deck a Canopy was ſpread
 Of Antick work in gold and ſilver made, (play'd.
 Which mix'd with Sun-beams dazling Light diſ-
 But oh! beneath this glorious Scene of State
 (Curſt be the ſight) a fatal Beauty fate,
 And fondly you were on her Boſom lay'd,
 Whilſt with your perjur'd Lips her fingers play'd;
 Wantonly curl'd and dally'd with that hair,
 Of which, as ſacred Charms, I Bracelets wear.

Oh! hadſt thou ſeen me then in that mad ſtate,
 So ruin'd, ſo deſign'd for Death and Fate,
 Fix'd on a Rock, whoſe horrid Precipice
 In hollow Murmurs wars with angry ſeas;
 Whilſt the bleak winds aloſt my Garments bear,
 Ruſſling my careleſs and diſhevel'd hair,
 I look'd like the ſad ſtatue of Deſpair.

With

With out-stretch'd voice I cry'd, and all around.
The Rocks and Hills my dire complaints resound
I rend my Garments, tear my flattering face,
Whose false deluding Charms my ruin was.
Mad as the Seas in storms, I breath despair,
Or Winds let loose in unresisting air.
Raging and frantick through the Woods I fly,
And *Paris* ! lovely, faithless, *Paris* ; cry.
But when the Echo's found thy Name again,
I change to new variety of Pain.
For that dear name such tenderness inspires,
As turns all Passion to Loves softer fires :
With tears I fall to kind Complaints again,
So tempests are allay'd by show'rs of Rain.

Say, lovely Youth, why woud'st thou thus betray
My easie Faith, and lead my heart astray ?
It might some humble Shepherd's choice have been,
Had I that tongue ne-re heard, those eyes ne're seen.
And in some homely Cott, in low repose,
Liv'd undisturb'd with broken Vows and Oaths :

All day by shaded Springs my Flocks have kept,
And in some honest Arms at Night have slept.
Then unupbraided with my wrongs thou'dst been
Safe in the Joys of the fair Grecian Queen :
What Stars do rule the Great? No sooner you
Became a Prince, but you were Perjur'd too.
Are Crowns and Falshoods then consistent things?
And must they all be faithless who are Kings?
The Gods be prais'd that I was humbly born,
Even tho' it renders me my *Paris* scorn.
And I had rather this way wretched prove,
Than be a Queen and faithless in my Love.
Not my fair Rival wou'd I wish to be,
To come prophan'd by others Joys to thee.
A spotless Maid into thy Arms I brought,
Untouch'd in Fame, ev'n Innocent in thought.
Whilst she with Love has treated many a Guest,
And brings thee but the leavings of a Feast :
With *Theſeus* from her Country made Escape,
Whilst she miscall'd the willing Flight, a Rape.

So now from *Atræus* Son, with thee is fled,
 And still the Rape hides the Adult'rous Deed.
 And is it thus Great Ladies keep intire
 That vertue they so boast, and you admire?
 Is this a Trick of Courts, can Ravishment
 Serve for a poor Evasion of Consent?
 Hard shift to save that Honour priz'd so high,
 Whilst the mean Fraud's the greater Infamy.
 How much more happy are we Rural Maids,
 Who know no other Pallaces than Shades?
 Who want no Titles to inflave the Crowd,
 Lest they shou'd babble all our Crimes aloud.
 No Arts our good to show, our Ills to hide,
 Nor know to cover faults of Love with Pride.
 I lov'd, and all Loves Dictates did pursue,
 And never thought it cou'd be sin with you.
 To Gods, and Men, I did my Love proclaim;
 For one soft hour with thee, my charming Swain,
 VVou'd Recompence an Age to come of shame,
 Cou'd it as well but satisfie my Fame.

But

But oh! those tender hours are fled and lost,
 And no more of Fame, or thee can boast!
 'Twas thou wert Honour, Glory, all to me:
 Till Swains had learn'd the Vice of Perjury,
 No yielding Maids were charg'd with Infamy.
 'Tis false and broken Vows make Love a sin,
 Hadst thou been true, we innocent had been.

But thou less faith than *Autumn* leaves do'st show,
 Which ev'ry Blast bears from their native Bough.
 Less weight, less constancy, in thee is born
 Than in the slender mildew'd Ears of Corn.

Oft when you Garlands wove to deck my
 hair,

VWhere my stick Pinks, and Dazies mingled were,
 You swore 'twas fitter Diadems to bear:
 And when with eager Kisses prest my hand,
 Have said, *How well a Scepter 'twou'd Command!*
 And if I danc'd upon the flow'ry Green,
 VWith charming, wishing Eyes survey my Miene,
 And cry! the Gods design'd thee for a Queen!

VWhy

Why then for *Helen* dost thou me forsake ?
 Can a poor empty Name such difference make ?
 Besides, if Love can be a sin, thine's one,
 Since *Helen* does to *Menelaus* belong.
 Be Just, restore her back, she's none of thine,
 And, charming *Paris*, thou art only mine.
 'Tis no ambitious flame that makes me sue
 To be again belov'd, and blest with you ;
 No vain desire of being ally'd t' a King,
 Love is the only Dowry I can bring,
 And tender Love is all I ask again.
 Whilst on her dang'rous smiles fierce war must
 wait
 With fire and Vengeance at your Palace gate,
 Rouze your soft slumbers with their rough
 Alarms,
 And rudely snatch you from her faithless Arms :
 Turn then fair Fugitive, e're 'tis too late,
 Ere thy mistaken Love procures thy fate ;

I

E're

E're a wrong'd Husband does thy Death design,
And pierce that dear, that faithless heart of
thine.

PARIS

PARIS TO HELENA.

BY

Mr. RICHARD DUKE.

The ARGUMENT.

Paris, having sail'd to Sparta for the obtaining of Helen, whom Venus had promised him as the reward of his adjudging the prize of Beauty to her, was nobly there entertain'd by Menelaus, Helens Husband; but he being call'd away to Crete, to take possession of what was left him by his Grand-father Atreus, commends his Guest to the care of his Wife. In his absence Paris Courts her, and writes to her the following Epistle.

ALL health, fair Nymph, thy Paris sends to thee,
Tho' You, and only You, can give it me.

Shall I then speak? or is it needless grown
To tell a Passion that it self has shewn?
Do's not my Love it self too open lay,
And all I think in all I do betray?
If not, oh! may it still in secret lie,
Till time with our kind wishes shall comply,
Till all our joys may to us come sincere,
Nor lose their price by the alloy of fear.
In vain I strive; who can that fire conceal,
Which do's it self by its own Light reveal?
But if your needs would hear my trembling tongue
Speak what my actions have declar'd so long,
I Love; you've there the word that do's impart
The truest Message from my bleeding heart,
Forgive me, Madam, that I thus confess
To you, my fair Physician, my Disease,
And with such looks this suppliant Paper grace,
As best become the Beauties of that face.
May that smooth brow no angry wrinkle wear,
But be your looks as kind as they are fair.

Some pleasure 'tis to think these Lines shall find
 An Entertainment at your hands so kind,
 For this creates a hope, that I too may,
 Receiv'd by you, as happy be as they.
 Ah! may that hope be true! nor I complain
 That *Venus* promis'd you to me in vain.
 For know, lest you through ignorance offend
 The Gods, 'tis Heav'n that me does hither send.
 None of the meanest of the Powers Divine
 That first inspir'd, still favours my design.
 Great is the prize I seek, I must confess,
 But neither is my due or merit less:
Venus has promis'd she would you assign,
 Fair as her self, to be for ever mine.
 Guided by her, my *Troy* I left for thee,
 Nor fear'd the dangers of the Faithless Sea,
 She with a kind and an auspicious gale
 Drove the good Ship, and stretch'd out ev'ry sail.
 For she who sprung out of the teeming deep,
 Still o're the main do's her wide Empire keep.

Still may she keep it, and as she with ease
Allays the wrath of the most angry Seas,
So may she give my stormy mind some rest,
And calm the raging tempest of my breast,
And bring home all my sighs and all my vows
To their wish'd harbour, and desir'd repose.

Hither my flames I brought, not found 'em here,
I my whole course by their kind light did steer ;
For I by no mistake or storm was tost
Against my will upon this happy Coast.
Nor as a Merchant did I plow the Main
To venture Life, like fordid Fools, for gain.
No; may the Gods preserve my present store,
And only give me you to make it more.
Nor to admire the place came I so far ;
I have Towns richer than your Cities are.
'Tis you I seek, to me from *Venus* due,
You were my wish, before your Charms I knew.
Bright Images of you my mind did draw
Long ere my eyes the lovely Object saw.

Nor

Nor wonder that with the swift winged dart,
At such a distance you could wound my heart :
So Fate ordain'd, and lest you fight with Fate,
Hear and believe the truth I shall relate,

Now in my Mothers Womb shut up I lay,
Her fatal burthen longing for the day,
When she in a mysterious Dream was told,
Her teeming Womb a burning Torch did hold ;
Frighted she rises, and her Vision she
To *Priam* tells, and to his Prophets he ;
They sing that I all *Troy* should set on fire,
But sure Fate meant the flames of my desire.
For fear of this among the Swains expos'd,
My native greatness every thing disclos'd.
Beauty, and strength, and courage joyn'd in one,
Through all disguise spoke me a Monarchs Son.
A place there is in *Ida's* thickest Grove
With Oaks and Fir-trees shaded all above,
The grafs here grows untoucht by bleating flocks,
Or Mountain Goat, or the laborious Ox.

From hence *Troy's* Tow'rs magnificence and pride,
Leaning against an aged Oak, I spy'd.

When straight methought I heard the trembling
ground

With the strange noise of trampling feet resound.

In the same instant *Jove's* great Messenger,

On all his Wings born through the yielding Air,

Lighting before my wondring Eyes did stand;

His golden Rod shone in his sacred hand :

With him three charming Goddesses there came,

Juno, and *Pallas*, and the *Cyprian* Dame.

With an unusual fear I stood amaz'd,

Till thus the God my sinking Courage rais'd ;

Fear not ; Thou art Jove's substitute below,

The prize of heavenly beauty to bestow ;

Contending Goddesses appeal to you,

Decide their strife ; He spake, and up he flew.

Then bolder grown, I throw my fears away,

And every one with curious eyes survey,

Each

Each of 'em merited the Victory,
And I their doubtful Judge was griev'd to see,
That one must have it, when deserv'd by three.
But yet that one there was which most prevail'd,
And with more pow'rful Charms my heart assail'd.
Ah! would you know who thus my breast could
move?

Who could it be but the fair Queen of Love?
With mighty bribes they all for Conquest strive,
Juno will Empires, *Pallas* Valour give,
Whilst I stand doubting which I should prefer,
Empire's soft ease, or glorious toils of War;
But *Venus* gently smil'd, and thus she spake,
They're dangerous gifts, O do not, do not take!
I'll make Thee Love's immortal pleasures know,
And Joys that in full tides for ever flow.
For, if you Judge the Conquest to be mine,
Fair Leda's fairer Daughter shall be thine.
She spake; and I gave her the conquest due,
Both to her Beauty, and her gift of you.

Mean

Mean while (my angry Stars more gentle grown)
I am acknowledg'd Royal *Priam's* Son,
All the glad Court, all *Troy* does celebrate,
With a new Festival, my change of Fate.
And as I now languish and die for thee,
So did the Beauties of all *Troy* for me.
You in full pow'r over a heart do reign,
For which a thousand Virgins sigh'd in vain :
Nor did Queens only fly to my imbrace,
But Nymphs of form, divine, and heavenly race :
I all their Loves with cold disdain repress,
Since hopes of you first fir'd my longing breast.
Your charming form all day my fancy drew,
And when night came, my dreams were all of you.
What pleasures then must you your self impart,
Whose shadows only so surpriz'd my heart ?
And oh ! how did I burn approaching nigh'r,
That was so scorch'd by so remote a fire !

For now no longer could my hopes refrain
From seeking their wish'd Object through the main.

I fell the stately Pine, and every Tree
That best was fit to cut the yielding Sea,
Fetch'd from *Gargarian* Hills, tall Firs I cleave,
And *Ida* naked to the winds I leave,
Stiff Oaks I bend, and solid Planks I form,
And every Ship with well-knit ribs I arm.
To the tall Mast I Sails and Streamers joyn,
And the gay Poops with painted Gods do shine.
But on my Ship does only *Venus* stand
With little *Cupid* smiling in her hand,
Guide of the way she did her self command.
My Fleet thus rigg'd, and all my thoughts on thee,
I long to plow the vast *Ægean* Sea,
My anxious Parents my desires withstand,
And both with pious tears my stay command :
Cassandra too, with loose dishevel'd hair,
Just as our hasty Ships to sail prepare,
Full of Prophetick fury cries aloud,
O whither steers my Brother through the flood?

Little,

Little, ah ! little dost thou know or heed

To what a raging fire these waters lead,

True where her fears, and in my breast I feel

The scorching flames her fury did foretel.

Yet out I sail, and favour'd by the wind,

On your blest Shore my wish'd for haven find ;

Your Husband then, so Heav'n, kind Heav'n ordains,

In his own House his Rival entertains.

Shews me what're in *Sparta* do's delight

The curious Travellers enquiring sight :

But I, who only long'd to gaze on you,

Could tast no pleasure in the idle shew.

But at thy sight ; oh ! where was then my heart !

Out from my breast it gave a sudden start,

Sprung forth and met half way the fatal dart.

Such or less charming was the Queen of Love,

When with her Rival Goddesses she strove.

But, Fairest, hadst thou come among the three,

Even she the prize must have resign'd to thee.

Your

Your Beauty is the only Theme of Fame,
 And all the World sounds with fair *Hele*n's name ;
 Nor lives there she whom pride it self can raise
 To claim with you an equal share of praise :
 Do I speak false ? rather report do's so,
 Detracting from you in a praise too low.
 More here I find than that could ever tell,
 So much your Beauty does your fame excell,
 Well then might *Theseus*, he who all things knew,
 Think none was worthy of his Theft but you ;
 I this bold theft admire ; but wonder more
 He ever would so dear a prize restore :
 Ah ! would these hands have ever let you go ?
 Or could I live and be divorc'd from you ?
 No ; sooner I with life it self could part,
 Than e're see you torn from my bleeding heart,
 But could I do as he, and give you backy
 Yet sure some taste of Love I first would take,
 Would first in all your blooming excellence
 And Virgins sweets feast my luxurious sense ;

Or

Or if you would not let that treasure go,
Kisses at least you should, you would bestow,
And let me smell the flow'r as it did grow.
Come then into my longing arms, and try
My lasting, fix'd, Eternal constancy,
Which never till my funeral pile shall waft;
My present fire shall mingle with my last.
Scepters and Crowns for you I did disdain,
With which great *Juno* tempted me in vain.
And when bright *Pallas* did her bribes prepare,
One soft embrace from you I did prefer
To Courage, strength, and all the Pomp of War.
Nor shall I ever think my choice was ill,
My judgment's settled, and approves it still.
Do you but grant my Hopes may prove as true
As they were plac'd above all things but you.
I am, as well as you, of Heavenly race,
Nor will my Birth your mighty line disgrace,
Pleias and *Jove*, our Noble Lineage Head,
And them a race of God-like Kings succeed.

All *Asia's* Scepters to my Father bow,
And half the spacious East his power allow;
There you shall see the Houses roost with Gold,
And Temples glorious as the Gods they hold.
Troy you shall see, and divine Walls admire,
Built to the Confort of *Apollo's* Lyre.
What need I the vast flood of people tell,
That over its wide banks do's almost swell?
You shall gay troops of *Phrygian* Matrons meet,
And *Trojan* Wives shining in every street.
How often then will you your self confess
The emptiness and poverty of *Greece*?
How often will you say, one Pallace there
Contains more wealth than do whole Cities here?
I speak not this your *Sparta* to disgrace,
For wheresoe're your Life began its race
Must be to me the happiest, dearest place,
Yet *Sparta's* poor; and you that should be dress'd
In all the Riches of the shining East,
Should

Should understand how ill that sordid place
 Suits with the beauty of your charming face.
 That face with costly dress and rich attire
 Should shine, and make the gazing world admire.
 When you the Habit of my *Trojans* see,
 What, think ye, must that of their Ladies be?
 Oh! then be kind, fair *Spartan*, nor disdain
 A *Trojan* in your bed to entertain,
 He was a *Trojan*, and of our great line,
 That to the Gods do's mix immortal Wine;
Tithonus too, whom to her rose bed
 The Goddess of the Morning blushing led;
 So was *Anchises* of our *Trojan* race;
 Yet *Venus* self to his desir'd embrace,
 With all her train of little Loves, did flie,
 And in his arms learn'd for a while to lie,
 Nor do I think that *Menelaus* can
 Compar'd with me, appear the greater Man,
 I'me sure my Father never made the Sun
 With frighted Steeds from his dire banquet run;

No Grand-father of mine is stain'd with blood,
Or with his Crime names the *Myrtoan* flood.
None of our race do's in the *Stygian* Lake
Snatch at those Apples he wants pow'r to take.
But stay; since You with such a Husband joyn,
Your Father *Jove* is forc'd to grace his Line.

He (Gods!) a wretch unworthy of those charms,
Do's all the Night lie melting in your arms,
Do's every minute to new joys improve,
And riots in the luscious sweets of Love.
I but at Table one short view can gain,
And that too, only to increase my pain:
O may such Feasts my worst of Foes attend,
As often I at your spread Table find.
I loath my food when my tormented eye
Sees his rude hand in your soft bosom lie.
I burst with envy when I him behold
Your tender limbs in his loose robe infold.
When he your lips with melting kisses seal'd,
Before my eyes I the large goblet held.

K

When

When you with him in strict embraces close,
My hated meat to my dry'd Palat grows.
Oft have I sigh'd, then sigh'd again to see
That sigh with scornful smiles repaid by thee.
Oft I with Wine would quench my hot desire
In vain ; for so I added fire to fire.
Oft have I turn'd away my head in vain,
You straight recall'd my longing eyes again.
What shall I do ? your sports with grief I see,
But 'tis a greater, not to look on Thee.
With all my Art I strive my flames to hide,
But through the thin disguise they are descry'd.
Too well, alas ! my wounds to you are known,
And O that they were so to you alone !
How oft turn I my weeping eyes away,
Lest he the cause should ask, and I betray ?
What tales of Love tell I when warm'd with Wine,
To your dear face applying every line.
In borrow'd names I my own passion shew,
They the feign'd Lovers are, but I the true.

Some-

Sometimes more freedom in discourse to gain,
 For my excuse I drunkenness would feign.
 Once I remember your loose Garment fell,
 And did your naked, swelling breasts reveal,
 Breasts white as snow, or the false down of *Jove*,
 When to your Mother the kind *Swan* made Love!
 Whil'st with the sight surpriz'd I gazing stand,
 The cup I held, dropt from my careless hand.
 If you your young *Hermione* but kiss,
 Straight from her lips I snatch the envy'd bliss.
 Sometimes supinely laid, Love-songs I sing
 And wassled kisses from my fingers sling.
 Your Women to my aid I try to move
 With all the pow'rful Rhetorick of Love,
 But they, alas! speak nothing but despair,
 And in the midst leave my neglected Prayer.
 Oh! that by some great prize you might be won,
 And your possession might the Victor Crown;
 As *Pelops* his *Hippodamia* won,
 Then had you seen what I for you had done,

But now I've nothing left to do but pray,
And my self prostrate at your feet to lay.
O thou, thy Houses Glory, brighter far
Than thy two shining Brothers friendly Star!
O worthy of the Bed of Heav'n's great King,
If ought so fair but from himself could spring!
Either with thee I back to *Troy* will fly,
Or here a wretched banish'd Lover die.
With no slight wound my tender breast does smart,
My bones and marrow feel the piercing dart;
I find my Sister true did Propheſie,
I with a Heavenly dart should wounded die;
Despiſe not then a Love by Heaven deſign'd,
So may the Gods ſtill to your Vows be kind.

Much I could ſay, but what, will beſt be known
In your apartment when we are alone.
You bluſh, and with a ſuperſtitious dread,
Fear to deſile the Sacred Marriage Bed:
Ah! *Helen*, can you then ſo ſimple be,
To think ſuch Beauty can from faults be free?

Or change that face, or you must needs be kind,
Beauty and Vertue seldom have been joyn'd.

Jove and bright *Venus* do our thefts approve,
Such thefts as these gave you your Father *Jove*.

And if in you ought of your Parents last,
Can *Jove* and *Leda's* Daughter well be chaste?

Yet then be chaste when we to *Troy* shall go;
(For she who sins with one alone, is so.)

But let us now injoy that pleasing sin,
Then Marry and be innocent agen.

Ev'n your own Husband doth the same perswade,
Silent himself, yet all his actions plead:

For me they plead, and he, good man, because
He'll spoil no sport, officiously withdraws.

Had he no other time to visit *Crete*?

Oh! How prodigious is a Husbands Wit!

He went, and as he went, he cry'd, My Dear,
Instead of me, you of our Guest take care.

But you forget your Lord's Command I see,
Nor take you any care of Love or me.

And think you such a thing as he do's know
The treasure that he holds in holding you ?
No, did he understand but half your charms ;
He durst not trust 'em in a strangers arms.
If neither his nor my request can move,
We're forc'd by Opportunity to Love ;
We should be fools, even greater fools than he,
Should so secure a time unactive be.
Alone these tedious winter nights you lie
In a cold widow'd bed, and so do I.
Let mutual joys, our willing bodies joyn,
That happy night shall the mid-day out-shine.
Then will I swear by all the Pow'rs above,
And in their awful presence seal my Love.
Then if my wishes may aspire so high,
I with our flight shall win you to comply ;
But if nice Honour little scruples frame,
The force I'll use shall vindicate your fame.
Of *Theſeus* and your Brothers I can learn,
No precedents so nearly you concern ,

You *Theseus*, they *Leucippus* Daughter stole.
 I'll be the fourth in the illustrious roll.
 Well man'd, well arm'd for you my Fleet do's stay,
 And waiting winds murmur at our delay.
 Through *Troy's* throng'd streets you shall in tri-
 umph go,
 Ador'd as some new Goddess here below.
 Where e're you tread, Spices and Gums shall
 smoak,
 And Victims fall beneath the fatal stroke.
 My Father, Mother, all the joyful Court,
 All *Troy* to you with presents shall resort.
 Alas! 'tis nothing what I yet have said,
 What there you'll find, shall what I write exceed.
 Nor fear, lest War pursue our hasty flight,
 And angry *Greece* should all her force unite.
 What ravish'd Maid did ever VVars regain?
 Vain the attempt, and fear of it as vain.
 The *Thracians* *Orithya* stole from far,
 Yet *Thrace* ne'r heard the noise of following VVar.

Jason too stole away the *Colchian* Maid,
Yet *Colchos* did not *Theffaly* invade.
He who stole you, stole *Ariadne* too,
Yet *Minos* did not with all *Crete* pursue.
Fear in these cases than the danger's more,
And when the threatening tempest once is o're,
Our shame's then greater than our fear before.
But say from *Greece* a threatned War pursue,
Know I have strength and wounding weapons too.
In Men and Horse more numerous than *Greece*
Our Empire is, nor in its compass less.
Nor do's your Husband *Paris* ought excel
In generous courage or in Martial skill.
Ev'n but a Boy from my slain Foes I gain'd
My stollen Herd, and a new Name attain'd ;
Ev'n then o'rcome by me I cou'd produce
Deiphobus and great *Ilioneus*.
Nor hand to hand more to be fear'd am I,
Than when from far my certain Arrows fly.

You

You for his youth can no such actions feign,

Nor can he e're my envy'd skill attain.

But could he, *Hector's* your security,

And he alone an Army is to me.

You know me not, nor the hid Prowess find

Of him that Heav'n has for your bed design'd.

Either no War from *Greece* shall follow thee,

Or if it do's, shall be repell'd by me.

Nor think I fear to fight for such a Wife,

That prize would give the Coward's courage life.

All after ages shall your fame admire,

If you alone set the whole world on fire.

To Sea, to Sea, while all the Gods are kind,

And all I promise, you in *Troy* shall find.

HELEN

HELEN
TO
PARIS.

By the Right Honourable the
EARL of MULGRAVE,
AND
Mr. DRYDEN.

The ARGUMENT.

Helen, *having received the foregoing Epistle from Paris, returns the following Answer: Wherein she seems at first to chide him for his Presumption in Writing, as he had done, which could only proceed from his low Opinion of her Vertue; then owns her self to be sensible of the Passion, which he had expressed for her, tho she much suspect his Constancy; and at last discovers her Inclinations to be favourable to him. The whole Letter shewing the extream artifice of Woman-kind.*

When loose Epistles violate Chast Eyes,
She half Consents, who silently denies:
How

How dares a stranger with designs so vain,
Marriage and Hospitable Rights prophane?
Was it for this, your Fate did shelter find
From swelling Seas and every faithless wind?
(For tho a distant Country brought you forth,
Your usage here was equal to your worth.)
Does this deserve to be rewarded so?
Did you come here a Stranger, or a Foe?
Your partial Judgment may perhaps complain;
And think me barbarous for my just disdain;
Ill-bred then let me be, but not unchast,
Nor my clear fame with any spot defac'd:
Tho in my face there's no affected Frown,
Nor in my Carriage a feign'd niceness shown,
I keep my Honour still without a stain,
Nor has my Love made any Coxcomb vain.
Your boldness I with admiration see;
What hope had you to gain a Queen like me?
Because a Hero forc'd me once away,
Am I thought fit to be a second prey?

Had

Had I been won, I had deserv'd your blame,
But sure my part was nothing but the shame :
Yet the base theft to him no fruit did bear,
I scap'd unhurt by any thing but fear.
Rude force might some unwilling Kisses gain,
But that was all he ever could obtain.
You on such terms would ne'r have let me go,
Were he like you, we had not parted so.
Untouch'd the Youth restor'd me to my Friends,
And modest usage made me some amends.
'Tis vertue to repent a vicious deed;
Did he repent that *Paris* might succeed?
Sure 'tis some Fate that sets me above wrongs,
Yet still exposes me to busie tongues.
I'll not complain, for who's displeas'd with Love,
If it sincere, discreet, and constant prove ?
But that I fear, not that I think you base,
Or doubt the blooming beauties of my face,
But all your Sex is subject to deceive,
And ours alas, too willing to believe.

Yet

Yet others yield : and Love o'recomes the best,—
 But why should I not shine above the rest?
 Fair *Leda's* Story seems at first to be
 A fit example ready found for me;
 But she was Cousen'd by a borrow'd shape,
 And under harmless Feathers felt a Rape:
 If I should yield, what reason could I use?
 By what mistake the Loving Crime excuse?
 Her fault was in her pow'rfull Lover lost,
 But of what *Jupiter* have I to boast?
 Tho' you to Heroes, and to Kings succeed,
 Our Famous *Race does no addition need,
 And great Alliances but useles prove
 To one that ^{springed} ~~come~~ her self from mighty *Jove*.
 Go then and boast in some less haughty place,
 Your *Phrygian* Blood, and *Priam's* ancient Race,
 Which I wou'd shew I valu'd, if I durst;
 You are the fifth from *Jove*, but I the first.
 The Crown of *Troy* is pow'rful I confess,
 But I have reason to think ours no less.

Your

Your Letter fill'd with promises of all
That Men can good, and Women pleasant, call ;
Gives expectation such an ample field,
As wou'd move Goddeffes themselves to yield.
But if I e're offend great *Juno's* Laws,
Your self shall be the dear, the only cause ;
Either my Honour I'll to death maintain,
Or follow you, without mean thoughts of gain.
Not that so fair a Present I despise.
We like the Gift, when we the giver prize.
But 'tis your Love moves me, which made you take
Such pains, and run such hazards for my sake ;
I have perceiv'd (though I dissembled too)
A thousand things that Love has made you do :
Your eager Eyes would almost dazle mine,
In which (wild man) your wanton thoughts
wou'd shine.
Sometimes you'd sigh, sometimes disorder'd stand,
And with unusual ardor, press my hand ;

Con-

Contrive just after me to take the Glass,
 Nor wou'd you let the least occasion pass,
 Which oft I fear'd, I did not mind alone,
 And blushing fate for things which you have done:
 Then murmur'd to my self, he'll for my sake
 Do any thing; I hope 'twas no mistake:
 Oft have I read within this ^{pleasant} pleasing Grove,
 Under my Name those Charming words, *I Love*,
 If frowning, seem'd not to believe your Flame,
 But now, alas, am come to write the same.
 If I were capable to do amiss,
 I could not but be sensible of this.
 For oh! your Face has such peculiar charms,
 That who can hold from flying to your arms?
 But what I ne'r can have without offence,
 May some blest Maid possess with innocence.
 Pleasure may tempt, but vertue more should move,
 O learn of me to want the thing you Love.
 What you desire is sought by all mankind:
 As you have eyes, so others are not blind.

Like

Like you they see, like you my charms adore,
They wish not less, but you dare venture more:
Oh! had you then upon our Coasts been brought,
My Virgin Love, when thousand Rivals fought,
You had I seen, you should have had my voice;
Nor could my Husband justly blame my Choice.
For both our hopes, alas you come too late!
Another now is Master of my Fate.
More to my wish I cou'd have liv'd with you,
And yet my present lot can undergo.
Cease to solicit a weak Woman's will.
And urge not her you Love, to so much ill.
But let me live contented as I may,
And make not my unspotted fame your prey.
Some Right you claim, since naked to your eyes
Three Goddesses disputed Beauties prize.
One offer'd Valour, t' other Crowns, but she
Obtain'd her Cause, who smiling promis'd me.
But first I am not of belief so light,
To think such Nymphs wou'd shew you such a fight.

Yet

Yet granting this, the other part is feign'd :
 A Bribe so mean, your sentence had not gain'd.
 With partial eyes I shou'd my self regard,
 To think that *Venus* made me her reward :
 I humbly am content with human praise ;
 A Goddess's applause wou'd envy raise :
 But be it as you say, for 'tis confess'd,
 The Men, who flatter highest, please us best.
 That I suspect it, ought not to displease ;
 For Miracles are not believ'd with ease.
 One joy I have, that I had *Venus* voice ;
 A greater yet, that you confirm'd her Choice ;
 That proffer'd Laurels, promis'd Sov'raignty,
Juno and *Pallas* you condemn'd for me.
 Am I your Empire then, and your renown ?
 What heart of Rock but must by this be won ?
 And yet bear witness, O you Pow'rs above,
 How rude I am in all the Arts of Love !
 My hand is yet untaught to write to men ;
 This is th'Essay of my unpractis'd pen :

Happy those Nymphs, whom use has perfect made;
I think all Crime, and tremble at a shade.
Ev'n while I write, my fearful conscious eyes
Look often back, misdoubting a surprize.
For now the Rumour spreads among the Croud,
At Court in whispers, but in Town aloud:
Dissemble you, what e're you hear 'em say:
To leave off Loving were your better way,
Yet if you will dissemble it you may.
Love secretly: the absence of my Lord,
More freedom gives, but does not all afford:
Long is his Journey, long will be his stay;
Call'd by affairs of Consequence away.
To go or not, when unresolv'd he stood,
I bid him make what swift return he cou'd:
Then Kissing me, he said I recommend
All to thy Care, but most my *Trojan* Friend.
I smil'd at what he innocently said,
And only answer'd, you shall be obey'd.

de; Propitious winds have born him far from hence,
 But let not this secure your confidence.
 Absent he is, yet absent he Commands,
 You know the Proverb, *Princes have long hands.*
 oud, My Fame's my burthen, for the more Impris'd;
 A juster ground of jealousy is rais'd.
 } Were I less fair, I might have been more blest :
 } Great Beauty through great danger is possest,
 } To leave me here his venture was not hard,
 } Because he thought my vertue was my Guard.
 1: He fear'd my Face, but trusted to my Life,
 The Beauty doubted, but believ'd the Wife:
 You bid me use th' occasion while I can,
 Put in our hands by the good easie Man.
 I wou'd, and yet I doubt, 'twixt Love and fear ;
 One draws me from you, and one brings me near.
 Our flames are mutual : and my Husband's gone,
 The nights are long ; I fear to lie alone.
 One House contains us, and weak Walls divide,
 Pro And you're too pressing to be long denied :

Let me not live, but every thing conspires
To joyn our Loves, and yet my fear retires.
You court with words, when you shou'd force im-
A Rape is requisite to shame-fac'd joy. (ploy,
Indulgent to the wrongs which we receive,
Our Sex can suffer what we dare not give.
What have I said! for both of us 'twere best,
Our kindling fires, if each of us suppress.
The Faith of Strangers is too prone to change,
And like themselves, their wandring Passions range.
Hypsipyle, and the fond *Minoian* Maid,
Where both by trusting of their Guests betray'd.
How can I doubt that other men deceive,
When you your self did fair *OEnone* leave?
But lest I shou'd upbraid your treachery,
You make a merit of that Crime to me:
Yet grant you were to faithful love inclin'd,
Your weary *Trojans* wait but for wind.
Shou'd you prevail while I assign the night,
Your Sails are hoisted, and you take your flight:

Some

Some bawling Mariner our Love destroys,
And breaks afunder our unfinish'd joys.

But I with you may leave the *Spartan* Port,
To view the *Trojan* Wealth, and *Priam's* Court,
Shown while I see, I shall expose my Fame :

And fill a foreign Country with my shame.

In *Asia* what reception shall I find?

And what dishonour leave in *Greece* behind?

What will your Brothers, *Priam*, *Hecuba*,

And what will all your modest Matrons say?

Ev'n you, when on this action you reflect,

My future Conduct justly may suspect:

And what e'r Stranger Lands upon your Coast,

Conclude me, by your own example, lost.

I from your rage, a Strumpet's Name shall hear,

While you forget, what part in it you bear.

You my Crimes Author, will my Crime upbraid:

Deep under ground, Oh let me first be laid!

You boast the Pomp and Plenty of your Land,

And promise all shall be at my Command;

Your *Trojan* Wealth, believe me, I despise;
My own poor Native Land has dearer ties.
Shou'd I be injur'd on your *Phrygian* Shore,
What help of Kindred cou'd I there implore?
Medea was by *Jasons* flatt'ry won:
I may like her believe and be undone.
Plain honest hearts, like mine, suspect no cheat;
And Love contributes to its own deceit.
The Ships about whose sides loud Tempests roar,
With gentle Winds were wafted from the Shore.
Your teeming Mother dreamt a flaming Brand
Sprung from her Womb consum'd the *Trojan*
Land.

To second this, old Prophecies conspire,
That *Ilium* shall be burnt with *Grecian* fire:
Both give me fear, nor is it much allay'd,
That *Venus* is oblig'd our Loves to aid.
For they who lost their Cause, revenge will take,
And for one friend two Enemies you make.

Nor

Nor can I doubt, but thou'd I follow you,
The Sword you'd soon our fatal Crime pursue:
A wrong so great my Husband's Rage wou'd
rouze,

And my Relations wou'd his Cause espouse.
You boast your Strength and Courage, but alas!
Your words receive small credit from your Face.
Let Heroes in the Dusty field delight,
Those Limbs were fashion'd for another fight.
Bid *Hector* sally from the Walls of *Troy*,
A sweeter quarrel shou'd your arms employ.
Yet fears like these, shou'd not my mind perplex,
Were I as wise as many of my Sex.
But time and you, may bolder thoughts inspire;
And I perhaps may yield to your desire.
You last demand a private Conference,
These are your words, But I can guess your sense.
Your unripe hopes their harvest must attend:
Be Rul'd by me, and time may be your friend.

This is enough to let you understand,
For now my Pen has tir'd my tender hand :
My Woman knows the secret of my heart,
And may hereafter better news impart.

PFNE-

PENELOPE TO ULYSSES.

BY
Mr. R Y M E R.

THE ARGUMENT.

The Rape of Helen having carried all the Grecian Princes to the Siege of Troy; Ulysses amongst the rest, there signaliz'd his manhood and prudence particularly. But the Siege at an end, and he not returning with the other Captains, Penelope sends this Letter in quest of him. She had rendred herself as deservedly famous on her part by resisting all the while the importunity of her Suitors with an unusual constancy and fidelity. She complains to Ulysses of their carriage, she likewise tells him her apprehensions and fears for him during the War, and since; acquaints him with the ill posture of his Family through his absence, and desires him to hasten home as the only means to set all right again.

TO Your Penelope at length break home,
Send no excuse, nor stay to write, but come.

Our

Our trouble long, *Troy*, does not hold you now;
Nor twenty *Troy*'s were worth all this ado.

Wou'd some just storm and raging Seas had
drown'd

The *Ruffian*, when for *Lacedemon* bound;
I should not then of tedious days complain,
Nor cold a nights and comfortless have lay'n:
Nor should this pains to pass the evenings take,
And work, and weave ev'n till my fingers ake.
I always fear'd worse dangers than the true,
(As always Love unquiet fears pursue)
Fancy'd thee by fierce *Trojans* compass round,
And *Hector*'s name still struck me to the ground.
When told of *Nestor*'s Son, by *Hector* slain,
Streight *Nestor*'s Son rouz'd all my fears again.
When for his sham how dear *Patroclus* paid:
I wept to find that wit no better sped.
Tlepollemus by *Trojan* javelin kill'd,
Through all my veins an icy terror thrill'd.

Whatever

Whatever *Greeks* miscarry'd in the fray,
 I fainted, and fell (well nigh) dead as they.
 Heaven for chaste Love has better fate in store,
 My Husband lives, and *Troy* is now no more.
 Our Captains well return'd, each Altar flames,
 And Temples all Barbarian Booty crams ;
 For their safe Loves the women Offerings bring.
 And *Trojan* Fates by ours defeated sing.
 All stand amaz'd to hear, both old and young,
 And listening Wives upon their Husbands hung.
 Some on the Table draw each bloody fight,
 And spilling Wine the whole sad *Iliad* write.
 This *Simois*, that the *Sigeon* Land,
 And there did *Priams* lofty Palace stand.
 Here Skulkt *Ulysses*, there *Achilles* dar'd,
 There *Hector* torn, the foaming Horses scar'd.
 All did Old *Nestor* to your Son explain ;
 To seek you sent, who told me all again.
 Your Sword how *Dolon*, no, nor *Rhesus* scap'd,
 Banter'd the one, this taken as he napp'd.

Fool-

Fool-hardy you, and us remembering ill,
Nightly amidst those *Thracian* Tents to steal,
There numbers slay, one onely aiding thee,
Thou hast been wise, and would'st have thought
on me.

Still pant I, told, how all in triumph brave,
Round your friends Camp those *Thracian* Steeds
you drave.

But what avails it me that *Troy* did yield,
And by your Prowess, the Town is now a Field?
As when *Troy* stood, I still remain alone,
Th'effect continues, though the cause is gone,
To others sack'd, to only me upheld,
Ev'n whil'st it lies by *Greek* abiders till'd.
For *Priams* Towers, now lofty Corn appears,
And *Phrygian* bloud a pond'rous harvest rears.
No House remains, nought of a *Trojan* found,
Unless you dig their bones from under ground.
Where art thou Conqueror? what detains thee now?
Or may not I your new Atchiev'ments know?

What-

What-ever Skipper hither come a shore,
 For thee I ask, and ask him o're and o're ;
 Nor parts he, till I scribe half a Sheet,
 To give thee, should you ever chance to meet.
 We sent to *Pylos Nestors* ancient seat,
 From *Pylos* we no certain tydings gat :
 To *Sparta* sent, the *Spartans* nothing know,
 What course you steer, nor where you wander
 now.

Wou'd those same God-built Walls were standing
 (Now I repent that ere I wish'd 'em ill) (still,
 Then where thou fought'st, I surely should have
 learn'd,

Nor save for War, the common grievance, mourn'd.
 Now, what I know not, all I madly fear,
 And a wide field lies open to my care.
 By Sea, or Land whatever dangers sway,
 Those I suspect the Causes of your stay.
 Whilst thus I simply muse, who knows your mind,
 Perhaps abroad some other Love you find :

Per-

Perhaps to her your dowdy Wife define,
Who knows no more, so that her Cupboards shine.
No; vanish jealous thoughts nor fright me more,
He wou'd be with me, were it in his power.
My Sire would force me from my Widows Bed,
Blames my delay, and chides, and shakes his head,
Let him chide on, yours still, yours only, I,
Penelope, *Ulysses* Wife will die.
Yet by my Chast desires, and vertue bent,
His temper does a little now relent.
From *Crete* and *Samos*, *Rhodes* and *Zant* set out,
To Court me come a wild unruly rout;
Who revel in your house without controul,
And eat, and waste your means, our blood and Soul.
Of *Medon*, *Polybus*, *Pisander*, fell
Eurymachus, alas, why should I tell?
With many more, you (sadly out o'th way)
Feed here, and on your substance let 'em prey.
The Beggar *Irus*, and that Goat-herd Clown,
Melanchius range and rummage up and down.

So kept your house, such stout defenders we,
A helpless Wife, old Man, and little Boy.
Whom late by treach'ry we had well nigh lost,
'Gainst all our minds as he to *Pylus* crost,
But Heavens preserve him till he die in course,
Having first clos'd mine eyes, and also yours.
Thus the old Nurse, the *Hind*, and *Hogherd* pray;
True Servants all, and faithful in their way.
Disarm'd by age, *Laertes* is not fit,
Amidst these Bullies to maintain your right.
Age, if he lives, *Telemachus* may bring
To strength, but yet he needs his Fathers wing.
I, what am I? Alas my help is small,
Come you the strength and safety of us all,
So may your Son in vertuous Arts increase,
So many the Old *Laertes* die in peace.
Who in my Bloom did at your parting mourn,
I wither'd grow, in waiting your return.

HYPSI-

HYPsipYLE to JASON.

BY

Mr. S E T T L E.

The A R G U M E N T.

The Desire of gaining the Golden Fleece, put Jason upon a Voyage to Colchos. In his passage, he stop'd at the Island of Lemnos, of which place Hypsipyle was then Queen, famed for her pious saving of her Father Thoas, in a general Massacre of the Men there by the Women of that Country. Her Entertainment of Jason so kind, as induced him to stay there two years, at the end of which he left the Island, and the Queen, (then big with Child;) and after a thousand Vows of Constancy, and a speedy return, pursues his first intended Voyage, and arrives at Colchos, where Æta was King. Medea his Daughter falls deeply in Love with Jason, and by her Charms he gain'd the Golden Fleece; with which and Medea, he secretly sail'd home to Thessaly. Hypsipyle hearing of his Landing with her more happy Rival Medea, writes him this Epistle.

L Aden, they say, with Jason's Golden Prize,
Proud Argo in Thessalia's Harbour lies.

I would

N. I would congratulate your safe return ;
 But from your pen I should that safety learn.
 When from my slighted Coast' you bore away,
 Spight of the winds ; you shov'd less Faith, than
 They.

If 'twas too much t' enjoy my dearest Lord,
 Sure I deserved one Line, one tender word.
 Why did Fame first, and not their Conqueror, show,
 How Wars Fierce God saw his tam'd Bulls at
 Plough.

(fell
 How th' Earth-born Warriours rose, and how they
 By their own Swords, without your Conquering
 steel.

How in your Charms the fetter'd Dragon lay,
 Whil'st your bold hand bore the curl'd Gold away.
 When doubtful Tongues shall Jason's wonders tell,
 Would I could say, see here's my Oracle.

But tho' unkind Loves silence I deplore,
 Your heart still mine, I would desire no more.

M

But

But ah, that hope is vain ; — a Witch destroys
My fancied pleasures, and my promis'd Joys.

Would I could say (but, oh, Loves fear's too
strong!)

Would I could say I guiltless *Jason* wrong.

Lately a Guest came from th' *Hemonian* Land :

My door scarce reach'd, with transport I demand

How fares my *Jason*? His sad look he bore,

Fixt with an ominous silence on the floor.

My Robes I tore, and thus, with horror, cry'd

Lives he! or with one wound both hearts must
bleed?

He lives, said he, to which I made him swear :

He swore by *Heav'n*, yet I retain'd my Fear.

My sense return'd to ask your Deeds, he said,

That the yok'd Bulls of *Mars* in Chains you led.

The Snakes own Teeth a crop of Heroes bore,

Whil'st a rough native case their Limbs huskt o're

And by their own Intestine Fury slain ;

One Days short Age compleats their active Reign,

Again

Again I ask, does my dear *Jason* live? (give.
Such Ebbs and Flows Loves fears and hopes do
He fatally proceeds, and with much Art,
Would hide, yet shews the falseness of your heart.
Ah, where's your Nuptial Faith, that flattering
 stile,

Loves Torch, more fit to light my Funeral pile!
I have no lawless plea to *Jason's* Love;
Juno and *Hymen* our just Chaplets wove:
Ah no! not these mild Gods: *Erinnys* hand,
At our curst Rites, held her infernal Brand.
Why to my *Lemnos* did your Vessel steer?
Or why, fond fool, did I admit you here?
Here no bright Ram with golden glory shone,
Nor was my *Lemnos* the *Ætean* Throne.
At first --- (but Fates all faint Resolves withstand)
I thought t' expel you with a Female hand.
The *Lemniam* Ladies are in Arms well skill'd:
Their Guard had been my Lives securest shield.

But in my City, Roof, my Soul received,
For two blest years my darling *Jason* lived.
Forc'd the third Summer to a sad Farewel,
Mixt with his Tears these parting Accents fell.
Do not at our divided Fates repine,
Thine I depart, to return ever Thine.
May our yet unborn pledge live long to prove
The object of its Rival Parents Love,
'Twixt sighs and Tears, through those false gales
did pour
These falser shows, till grief could speak no more.
You were the last the fatal *Argo* reach'd,
Whose swelling Sails th' o'rehafty winds had
stretch'd.
The furrowing Keel the Seas green surface
plough'd:
You to the Shore, to th' Seas I gazing bow'd.
In haste I ran to an adjacent Tow'r:
My Tears o're all my face and bosom shewr.

There

There my wet eyes my wasted Soul pursue,
And ev'n beyond their natural opticks flew.
A thousand Vows for your return I made,
You are return'd, and they should now be pay'd.
My Vows for curs'd *Medea's* Triumphs pay !
My Heart to Crief, my Love to Rage gives
way.

Shall I deck Temples, and make Altars shine,
For that false Man that lives, but lives not mine !
I never was secure. 'Twas my long dread,
You by your Fathers choice a *Greek* might wed.
To no *Greek* Bride, t' an unexpected Foe,
My wounds ! t' a Barbarian Harlot owe :
One, who by Spells and Herbs, does hearts surprize:
Nor are her slaves the Trophies of her Eyes.
She from her course the struggling Moon would hold,
The Sun himself in Magick shades infold.
She curbs the Waves, and stops the rapid Floods,
And from their seats removes whole Rocks and
Woods.

With her dishevell'd Hair the wandring Hag
Does half-burnt Bones rom their warm Ashes drag.
In moulten wax, tho' absent, kills by Art,
Arm'd with her Needle, goars a tortur'd Heart.
Nay, what Desert and Form should only move,
By Philters she secures her *Jasons* Love.
How can you doat on such Infernal Charms;
And sleep securely in a *Syrens* Arms?
You, as the Bulls, she does t' her Yoke subdue,
And as she tam'd the Dragons, Conquers you.
Though your great Deeds, and no less Race you
boast,
Link'd to that Fiend your sullied Fame is lost.
Nay by the censuring World 'tis justly thought,
Your Conquests by her Sorceries were wrought ;
And the *Phryxean* Ram's Triumphant Oar,
They say, not *Jason*, but *Medea* bore.
This Northern Bride your Parents disapprove:
Consult your Duty in your Nobler Love.

Let

Let some wild *Scythian* her loath'd bed possess,

A Mistress only fit for Savages.

Jason more false, more changeable than wind,

Have Vows no weight, and Oaths no pow'r to
bind ?

Mine you departed ; ah, return mine too,

Let my kind Arms their long lost Scenes renew.

If high Birth, and great Names your Heart can
turn,

Know, I'm the Royal *Thoas* Daughter born.

Bacchus my Grandfire is, whose Bride divine,

All Lesser Constellations does out-shine.

My Dow'r These and my Fertil *Lemnos* make,

All these and me, thy Equal Title take.

Nay I'm a Mother : A kind Father be,

And soften all the pains I've born for thee.

Yes Heaven with twins has blest our Genial Bed ;

And would you in their Looks their Father read.

His treacherous smiles they are too young to wear,

In all things else you'll find your picture there ;

I had sent those Envoys in these Letters stead,
Both for their own and Mothers wrongs to plead.
Had not their Stepdames Murthers bid 'em stay,
Too dear a Treasure for that Monsters prey.
Would her deaf Rage, that rent her Brother's
Bones,

Spare my young blood, or hear their tender
Groans?

Yet in your Arms this dearer Traitors lies;
Above my truth, you this false Poysoner prize.
This mean Adult'rate wretch was basely kind;
Loves sacred Lamp our chaste imbraces joyn'd.
Her Father she betray'd, mine lives by me,
I *Lemnos* Pride, she *Colchos* Infamy.
And thus her guilt my Piety outvies,
Whilst with her Crimes her Dow'r your heart
she buys.

False Man, I blame, not wonder at the Rage
O'th' *Lemnian* Dames: Wrongs do all Arms ingage.

Suppose

HYPsipYLE to JASON. 169

Suppose in vengeance to your Guilt, just *Heav'n*
Had on my Shore the perjur'd *Jason* driven;
Whil'st I with my young Twins to meet you
came,

And made you call on Rocks to hide your shame.
How could you look upon my Sons and Me?

Traytor, what Pains, what Death too bad for thee?

Perhaps indeed I *Jason* had not hurt,

But 'tis my merey more than his Desert :

The Harlots blood had sprinkled all the Place,
Dash'd in your faithless, and once charming Face.

I to *Medea*, should *Medea* prove,

And if *Jove* hears the pray'rs of injur'd Love,

May that loath'd Hag that has my Bed enjoy'd,

Be by my Fate, and her own Arts destroy'd.

Like me a Mother, and a Wife forlorn,

Be from her Ravish'd Lord, and Children torn.

May her ill gotten Trophies never last,

But round the World be th' hunted Monster chac'd.

Those

Those Dooms her Sire, and Murther'd Brother met,
May she t' her Husband and her Sons repeat.

Driv'n from the World, let her attempt the Skies,
Till in despair by her own hand she dies.

Thus wrong'd *Thoantias* prays, your Lives curs'd
Remnant lead,

An Execrable Pair in a Detested Bed.

MED EA

M E D E A

T O

J A S O N.

B Y

Mr. *T A T E.*

The ARGUMENT.

Jason arrives with his Companions at Colchos, where the Golden Fleece was kept, which before he can obtain, he is to undertake several Adventures; first to yoke the Wild Bulls, then to sow the Serpents Teeth, from whence should instantly rise an Army, with which he must encounter; and lastly, to make his passage by the Dragon that never slept. In order to this, he solicits Medea Daughter to the King, and skilful in Charms, by whose assistance (on Promise of Love) he gains the Prize. Then flies with her; the King pursues them, Medea kills her little Brother, scatters his Limbs, and whilst the

the King stays to gather them up, escapes with her Lover into Thessaly; where she restores decrepit Æson to his Youth. On the same promise perswades Pelias his Daughters to let out their Fathers Blood, but deceitfully leaves them Guilty of Parricide. For this and other Crimes, Jason casts her off: Marries Creusa Daughter to Creon King of Corinth, on which the enraged Medea, according to the various Transports of her Passion, writes this complaining, soothing, and menacing Epistle.

YET I found leisure, though a Queen, to free
By Magick Arts thy Grecian Friends, and
Thee;

The Fates shou'd then have finish'd with my Reign,
The Life that since was one continued Pain.

Who wou'd have dreamt the Youth of distant
Greece,

Shou'd e're have sail'd to seize the Phrygian Fleece!
That th' Argo shou'd in View of Colchos Ride!
A Grecian Army stem the Phæasian Tide!

Why

Why were those snares, thy Locks, so tempting
 A Tongue so false, so pow'rful to perswade! (made!
 No doubt but He that had so rashly fought
 Our Shore with the fierce Bulls unspell'd had
 fought,
 And fondly too th' Arms-bearing Seed had sown,
 Till by the Crop the Tiller were o'rethrown.
 How many Frauds had then expir'd with Thee!
 As many killing griefs remov'd from me!
 'Tis some Relief when ill returns are made,
 With Favours done, th' Ingrateful to upbraid;
 This Triumph will afford some little Ease,
 False Jason leaves me This —

When first your doubtful Vessel reacht our Port,
 And you had entrance to my Fathers Court:
 There was I then, what now your new Bride's here,
 My Royal Father might with her's compare.
 With Princely Pomp was your arrival grac'd,
 The meanest Greek on Tyrian Beds we plac'd.

Then

Then first I gaz'd my Liberty away!
And date my Ruin from that fatal day!
Fate pusht me on, and with your Charms combin'd;
I view'd your sparkling Eyes 'till I was blind.
You soon perceiv'd, for who cou'd ever hide
A flame that by its own Light is descry'd?

But now that Task's propos'd, and thou must tame
The Bulls with brazen Hoofs, and Breath of Flame,
With these the fatal field thou art to Plow,
From whence a sudden Host of Foes must grow.
Those dangers past, still to the Golden prey
The baleful fiery Dragon guards the Way.
Thus spake the King; your Knights start from
the feast,

And ev'n your cheeks a pale despair confess.
Where then was your ador'd *Crensa's* Dow'r?
And where her Father *Creon's* boasted Pow'r;
Sad went st thou forth; my pitying Eyes pursue,
I sigh'd, and after sent a soft Adieu!

In restless Tears I spent that tedious night,
Presenting still thy dangers to my sight ;
The Savage Bulls, and more the Savage Host,
But th' horrid Serpent did affright me most !
Thus tost with Fear and Love, (Fear swell'd the
Flame)

My Sister early to my Apartment came ;
Sad and dejected she surpriz'd me There,
With Eyes distilling, and dishevelled Hair,
On your behalf she fought me, nor cou'd crave
My Aid for you, so freely as I gave !

A Grove there is, an awful gloomy shade,
Too close for ev'n the Sun himself' invade ;
These Woods with great *Diana's* Fane we grac'd,
I th' midst the Goddess on high Tripods plac'd.
There (if that place you can remember yet,
Who have forgotten Me) 'twas there we met.
Then thus in soft deluding sounds you said —
“ Take pity on our sufferings, Royal Maid !

“ Rest

" Rest pleas'd, Thou hast the Pow'r to Kill but give
 " Proofs of Diviner Might, and make us Live!
 " By our distresses (which thy Art alone,
 " Has Pow'r to succour,) By th' all seeing Sun,
 " By the Chast Deity that Governs Here,
 " And what e're else you Sacred hold or Dear,
 " Take pity on our Youth, and bind us still
 " Eternal Servants to *Medea's* Will!
 " And if a Strangers Form can touch your mind,
 " (If such blest Fate was e're for me design'd!)
 " This Flesh to Dust dissolve, this Spirit to Air
 " When I think any but *Medea* Fair.
 " Be Conscious *Juno*, witness to my Vow,
 " And this dread Goddess at whose Shrine we Bow.
 Your Charming Tongue stopt here, and left the
 To be by yet more powerful Tears, express'd. ^(rest.)
 I yeild — and by my Art instruct you now,
 To yoke the brass hooft Bulls, and make'em Plow,
 Then with a daring Hand you sow the Field,
 That for an Harvest do's an Army yield ;

Ev'n I look'd pale, that gave the powerful Charms
To see the wondrous Crop of shining Arms!
Till th' Earth-born Brothers in fierce battle joyn'd,
Their sudden Lives more suddenly resign'd:
The Serpent next, a yet more dangerous toil,
With scaly Bosom Plows the yielding Soil,
O'reshades the Field with vast expanded wings,
And brandishes in Air his threatening Stings!

Where was *Crensa* at this needful Hour?

Where then were her fam'd Charms and matchless
Dow'r?

Medea, that *Medea*, that is now

Despis'd, thought Poor, held guilty too by You,
'Twas she that Charm'd the wakeful Dragons
fight,

Gave you the Fleece, and then secur'd your Flight:
To merit you, what cou'd I more have done?

My Father I betray, my Country shun,
And all the Hazards of an Exile run!

Tho'

Tho', whilst I yield me thus a Robbers Prize,
My tender Mother in my absence dies,
And at her Feet my breathless Sister lies.

Why left I not my Brother too? — cold fear
Arrests my Hand, and I must finish here!

This hand that tore the Infant in our Flight,
What then it dar'd to Act, dreads now to write.

To the rough Seas undaunted I repair,
For after Guilt, what can a Woman Fear?
Why scap'd our Crimes those Seas? we shou'd
have dy'd;

For falshood Thou, and I for Parricide.

The justling Isles shou'd there have dash'd our
Bones,

And hung us piece-meal on the ragged stones;

Or *Scylla* gorg'd us in her rav'nous Den,

Wrong'd *Scylla* thus shou'd use ingrateful Men!

Charybdis too shou'd in our Fate have shar'd,

Nor ought of our sad wreck her Whirl-pool spar'd.

Yet

Yet safe we reach your Shore; the *Phrygian* Fleece
Is made an Off'ring to the Gods of *Greece*.

The *Pelian* Daughters pious bloody Deed
I pass, that rashly made their Father bleed;
Your safety 'twas that drew me to this Fraud,
The Guilt that others Blame, you shou'd Applaud!
But stead of thanks, your Court I am forbid:
Your self forbad me, faithless *Jason* did!

With none but my two Infants I depart,
And *Jason's* Form, that ne're forsakes my Heart;
At length thy Rev'ling Nuptial Songs surprize
My wounded Ear, thy Nuptial Torch my Eyes.

The Rabble shout, the Clamour nearer drew,
And as it came more near, more dreadful grew:

My Servants weep in corners, and refuse
The ingrateful task of such unwelcome News!

I yet forbear to enquire, tho' still my Breast
The dreadful Apprehensions did suggest.

My youngest Boy now from the Window spy'd
The coming Pomp, and jocund thus he cry'd,

“ Look, Mother, look! see where my Father Rides,
“ With shining Reins his Golden Chariot Guides.
At this, my pale forsaken Breast I tore,
Nor spar’d the Face, whose Beauties charm no more.
Alas! what did I spare, scarce cou’d I spare
My Honour, scarcely thee, cou’d scarce forbear
To force my Passage to thy Chariot now,
And tear the Garland from thy perjur’d Brow.

Offended Father, now thy griefs discharge!
My Brothers Blood is now reveng’d at large.
The man (for whom I fled and injur’d Thee!
Whose Love sole comfort of my Flight cou’d be) }
Th’ ingrateful Man has now forsaken Me!
I tam’d the Bulls and cou’d the Serpent bind,
But for perfidious Love no spell can find:
The Dragons baleful Fires my Arts suppress,
But not the Flames that rage within my breast.
In Love my powerfull’st Herbs are useles made,
In vain is *Hecat* summon’d to my Aid;

I sigh the Day, the Night in watches spend,
 No slumbers on my careful brows descend :
 With *Poppies* juice in vain my Eyes I steep,
 And try the Charm that made the Dragon sleep.
 I only reap no Profit from my Charms !
 They fav'd, but fav'd thee for my Rivals Arms !
 There, 'cause you know the Theam will grateful
 Perhaps y' are so Unjust to' exclaim on me ! (be,
 To tax my Manners, Rally on my face,
 And make th' Adultress sport with my disgrace !
 Laugh on Proud Dame ; but know thy Fate is nigh,
 When thou shalt yet more wretched be than I !
 When wrong'd *Medea* unreveng'd sits still,
 Sword, Flame, and Poyson, have forgot to Kill.
 If Pray'rs the flinty *Jason's* breast can move,
 My just Complaint will sure successful prove.
 Strecth at thy Feet a suppliant Princess see ;
 Such was thy Posture, when she Pity'd Thee.
 And tho' a Wife's discarded Title fail,
 My Infants still are Thine, let them prevail !

Somuch th' are thine, so much thy likeness bear,
Each look I cast, is follow'd by a tear.

Now by the Gods, by all our past delights,
By those dear Pledges of our am'rous Nights,
Restore me to thy Love; I claim my due,
Be to my Merit, and thy Promise true.
I ask thee not what I perform'd for thee,
To set me from fierce Bulls and Serpents free;
I only crave thy Love, thy Love restore,
For which I've done so much, and suffer'd more.
Do'st thou demand a Dow'r? --- 'twas paid that day
When thou didst bear the Golden Fleece away:
Thy Life's my Dow'r, and ~~by~~ thy dear Followers
health,
The Youth of Greece; weigh these with Creon's
wealth.

To me thou ow'st that thou art Creon's Heir,
That now thou liv'st to call Crensa, Fair!
You've wrong'd me All, and on you All --- but hold,
I form Revenge too mighty to be told!

My thoughts are now to th' utmost Ruin bent!
 Perhaps I shall the fatal Rage repent,
 But on — for I (what e're the mischief be)
 Shall less repent than that I trusted thee!
 The God alone that Rages in my Breast,
 Can see the dark revenge my thoughts suggest;
 I only know 'twill soon effected be,
 And when it comes, be Vast, and Worthy Me.

N 4

PHÆDRA

PHÆDRÀ

T O

HIPPOLYTUS.

B Y

Mr. O T W A T.

The A R G U M E N T.

Theseus, the Son of Ægeus, having slain the Minotaur, promised to Ariadne the Daughter of Minos and Pasiphae, for the assistance which she gave him, to carry her home with him, and make her his Wife : So together with her Sister Phædra, they went on Board and sail'd to Chios, where being warn'd By Bacchus, he left Ariadne, and Married her Sister Phædra, who afterwards in Theseus her Husbands Absence, fell in Love with Hippolytus her Son in Law, who had Vow'd Coelibacy, and was a Hunter : Wherefore since she could not conveniently otherwise; she chose by this Epistle to give him an Account of her Passion.

IF Thou'rt unkind, I ne'r shall health enjoy;
Yet much I wish to thee, my Lovely Boy :

Read

Read this, and reading how my Soul is seisd,
 Rather than not be with my ruin pleas'd :
 Thus secrets safe to farthest Shores may move ;
 By Letters Foes converse and learn to Love.
 Thrice my sad tale, as I to tell it try'd,
 Upon my faultring Tongue abortive dy'd :
 Long shame prevail'd, nor could be conquer'd quite,
 But what I blusht to speak, Love made me write.
 'Tis dang'rous to resist the pow'r of Love.
 The Gods obey him, and he's King above :
 He clear'd the doubts that did my mind confound,
 And promis'd me to bring thee hither bound :
 Oh may he come, and in that breast of thine
 Fix a kind Dart, and make it flame like mine !
 Yet of my Wedlock Vows I'll loose no care, (fair ;
 Search back through all my fame, thou 'lt find it
 But Love long breeding, to worst pain does turn ;
 Outward unharm'd, within, within I burn !
 As the Young Bull or Courser yet untam'd,
 When Yok'd or Bridl'd first, are pinch'd & maim'd ;
So

So my unpractis'd heart in Love can find
No rest, th' unwonted weight so toils my mind.
When young, loves pangs by Arts we may remove
But in our riper years with rage we Love.
To thee I yield then all my dear Renown,
And prithee let's together be undone. (Rose,
Who would not pluck the new blown blushing
Or the ripe Fruit that Courts him as it grows?
But if my Vertue hitherto has gain'd
Esteem for spotless, shall it now be stain'd?
Oh in thy Love I shall no hazard run;
Tis not a sin, but when 'tis couresly done.
And now should *Juno* yield her *Jove* to me,
Pd quit that *Jove*, *Hippolytus*, for thee:
Believe me too with strange desires I change,
Amongst Wild Beasts I long with Thee to range,
To thy Delights and *Delia* I encline,
Make her my Goddess too, because she's thine:
I long to know the Woods, to drive the *Deer*,
And o're the Mountains tops my Hounds to cheat,
Shaking

Shaking my Dart, then, the Chase ended, lie
 Stretch'd on the grass, and would'st not thou be by?
 Oft in light Chariots I with pleasure ride,
 And love my self the furious Steeds to guide.
 Now like a *Bacchanal* more wild I stray,
 Or Old *Cybele's* Priests, as mad as they
 When under *Ida's* Hill they Offerings pay :
 Ev'n mad as those the Deities of Night
 And Water, *Fauns* and *Dryads* do affright :
 But still each little Interval I gain,
 Easily find 'tis Love breeds all my pain :
 Sure on our Race Love like a Fate does fall,
 And *Venus* will have Tribute of us all,
Jove lov'd *Europa*, whence my Father came.
 And to a Bull transform'd, Enjoy'd the Dame :
 She, like my Mother, languisht to obtain,
 And fill'd her Womb with shame as well as pain :
 The faithless *Theseus* by my Sisters Aid
 The Monster slew, and a safe Conquest made :

Now

Now in that Family my right to save,
I am at last on the same terms a slave :
'Twas fatal to my Sister and to me,
She lov'd thy Father, but my choice was thee.
Let Monuments of Triumph then be shown
For two unhappy Nymphs by you undone.
When first our Vows were at *Eleusis* pay'd,
Would I had in a *Cretan* Grave been laid ;
'Twas there thou didst a perfect Conquest gain,
Whilst Loves fierce Fever rag'd in ev'ry vein ;
White was thy Robe, a Garland deck'd thy Head ;
A modest blush thy comely face o'erspread.
That face which may be terrible in Arms,
But Graceful seem'd to me, and full of Charms :
I Love the man whose fashion's least his care,
And hate my Sexes Coxcombs fine and fair ;
For whilst thus plain thy careless Locks let fly,
Th' unpolish'd form is Beauty in my Eye :
If thou but ride, or shake the trembling Dart,
I fix my Eyes, and wonder at thy Art :

To see thee poise the *Jar·lin*, moves delight,
And all thou do'st is lovely in my sight :
But to the Woods thy cruelty resign ,
Nor treat it with so poor a life as mine :
Must cold *Diana* be ador'd alone ;
Must she have all thy Vows, and *Venus* none ?
That pleasure palls if 'tis Enjoy'd too long,
Love makes the weary firm, the feeble strong.
For *Cynthia's* sake unbend and ease thy Bow ;
Else to thy Arm 'twill weak and useless grow.
Famous was *Cephalus* in Wood and Plain,
And by him many a *Boar* and *Pard* was slain,
Yet to *Aurora's* Love he did incline,
Who wisely left Old Age for Youth like thine.
Under the spreading shades her Am'rous Boy,
The fair *Adonis*, *Venus* could enjoy ;
Atlanta's Loye too *Meleager* sought,
And to her Tribute paid of all he caught :
Be thou and I the next blest *Sylvan* pair :
Where Love's a Stranger, Woods but Desarts are.

With

With Thee through dang'rous ways unknown
before,

I'll rove and fearless face the dreadful Boar.

Between two Seas a little *Isthmus* lies,

Where on each side the beating Billows rise,

There in *Trazena* I thy Love will meet.

More blest and pleas'd than in my Native *Crete*.

As we could wish, Old *Theseus* is away

At *Theffaly*, where always let him stay

With his *Perithous*, whom well I see

Prefer'd above *Hippolytus* or me.

Nor has he only thus exprest his hate ;

We both have suffer'd wrongs of mighty weight :

My Brother first he cruelly did slay,

Then from my Sister falsly ran away ;

And left expos'd to ev'ry Beast a prey.

A Warlike Queen to thee thy being gave,

A Mother worthy of a Son so brave,

From cruel *Theseus* yet her death did find, (kind

Nor though she gave him Thee, could make him

Unwedded

Unwedded too he murdered her in spight,
 To Bastardize and Rob thee of thy Right :
 And if to wrong thee more, two Sons I've brought,
 Believe it his, and none of *Phædra's* fault :
 Rather thou fairest Thing the Earth contains,
 I wish at first had dy'd of Mothers pains :
 How canst thou rev'rence then thy Fathers Bed,
 From which himself so Abj.ctly is fled?
 The thought affrights not me, but me inflames;
 Mother and Son are notions, very Names
 Of worn out Piety, in fashion Then
 When Old dull *Saturn* Rul'd the Race of men:
 But braver *Jove* taught pleasure was no sin,
 And with his Sister did himself begin.
 Nearness of Bloud, and Kindred best we prove,
 When we express it in the closest Love.
 Nor need we fear our Fault should be reveal'd;
 'Twill under near Relation be conceal'd, (Crown
 And all who hear our Loves, with praise shall
 A Mothers kindness to a grateful Son.

No

No need at Midnight in the dark to stray,
T' unlock the Gates, and cry, my Love, this way.

No busie Spies our pleasures to betray.

But in one house, as heretofore, we'll live,

In publick kisses take; in publick, give:

Though in my Bed thou'rt seen, 'twill gain applause
From all, whilst none have sense to ghes the

Cause:

Only make haste, and let this League be sign'd;

So may my Tyrant Love to thee be kind.

For this I am an humble Suppliant grown;

Now where are all my boasts of Greatness gone?

I swore I ne'r would yield, resolv'd to fight,

Deceiv'd by Love, that's seldom in the right:

Now on my own I crawl, to clasp thy knees;

What's decent no true Lover cares or sees:

Shame, like a beaten Souldier, leaves the place,

But Beauties blushes still are in my face.

Forgive this fond Confession which I make,

And then some pity on my sufferings take.

What

What though 'midst Seas my Fathers Empire
lies?

Though my great Grandfire Thunder from the
skies?

What though my Fathers Sire in Beams drest gay
Drives round the burning Chariot of the day?
Their Honour all in me to Love's a slave,
Then though thou wilt not me, their Honour
save:

Joves Famous Island, *Crete*, in Dow'r I'll bring,
And there shall my *Hippolytus* be King:

For *Venus* sake then hear and grant my pray'r,
So may'st thou never Love a scornful fair;

In Fields so may *Diana* grace thee still,
And every Wood afford thee Game to kill;

So may the Mountain Gods and *Satyrs* all
Be kind, so may the Boar before thee fall,

So may the water-Nymphs in heat of day,
Though thou their Sex despise, thy thirst allay.

O

Millions

Millions of tears to these my pray'rs I joyn,
Which as thou read'st with those dear eyes of
Thine,
Think that thou seest the streams that flow from
mine.

D I D O

S

DIDO to ÆNEAS.

BY

Mr. D R Y D E N.

The ARGUMENT.

Eneas, the Son of Venus and Anchises, having at the Destruction of Troy, saved his Gods, his Father, and Son Ascanius from the Fire, put to Sea with twenty Sail of Ships, and having been long tost with Tempests, was at last cast upon the Shore of Lybia, where Queen Dido, (flying from the Cruelty of Pygmalion her Brother, who had Killed her Husband Sichæus,) had lately built Carthage. She entertained Æneas and his Fleet with great civility, fell passionately in Love with him, and in the end denied him not the last Favours. But Mercury admonishing Æneas to go in search of Italy, (a Kingdom promised to him by the Gods,) he readily prepared to Obey him. Dido soon perceived it, and having in vain try'd all other means to ingage him to stay, at last in Despair, writes to him as follows.

SO, on Mæander's banks, when death is nigh,
The mournful Swan sings her own Elegy.

Not that I hope, (for oh, that hope were vain!)
By words your lost affections to regain;
But having lost what e're was worth my care,
Why shou'd I fear to lose a dying pray'r?
'Tis then resolv'd poor *Dido* must be left
Of Life, of Honour, and of Love bereft!
While you, with loosen'd Sails and Vows, prepare
To seek a Land that flies the Searchers care.
Nor can my rising Tow'rs your flight restrain,
Nor my new Empire, offer'd you in vain.
Built Walls you shun, unbuilt you seek; that Land
Is yet to Conquer; but you this Command.
Suppose you Landed where your wish design'd,
Think what Reception Foreigners would find.
What People is so void of common sense,
To Vote Succession from a Native Prince?
Yet there new Scepters and new Loves you seek;
New Vows to plight, and plighted Vows to break.
When will your Tow'rs the height of *Carthage* know?
Or when, your eyes discern such crowds below?

If such a Town, and Subjects you cou'd see,
Still wou'd you want a Wife who lov'd like me.
For, oh, I burn, like fires with incense bright ;
Not holy Tapers flame with purer light :
Æneas is my thoughts perpetual Theme :
Their daily longing, and their nightly dream.
Yet he ungrateful and obdurate still :
Fool that I am to place my heart so ill !
My self I cannot to my self restore :
Still I complain, and still I love him more.
Have pity, *Cupid*, on my bleeding heart ;
And pierce thy Brothers with an equal dart.
I rave : nor canst thou *Venus* offspring be,
Love's Mother cou'd not bear a Son like thee.
From harden'd Oak, or from a Rocks cold womb,
At least thou art from some fierce *Tygres* come,
Or, on rough Seas, from their foundation torn,
Got by the winds, and in a Tempest born :
Like that which now thy trembling Sailors fear :
Like that, whose rage should still detain thee here.

Behold how high the Foamy Billows ride !
The winds and waves are on the juster side.
To Winter weather and a stormy Sea,
I'll owe what rather I wou'd owe to thee.
Death thou deserv'st from Heav'n's avenging Laws;
But I'm unwilling to become the cause.
To shun my Love, if thou wilt seek thy Fate,
'Tis a dear purchase and a costly hate.
Stay but a little, till the Tempest cease;
And the loud winds are lull'd into a peace.
May all thy rage, like theirs, unconstant prove !
And so it will, if there be pow'r in Love.
Know'st thou not yet what dangers Ships sustain,
So often wreck'd, how dar'st thou tempt the Main ?
Which, were it smooth, were every wave a sleep,
Ten thousand forms of death are in the deep.
In that abyss the Gods their vengeance store,
For broken Vows of those who fallly swore.
There winged storms on Sea-born *Venus* wait,
To vindicate the Justice of her State.

Thus

Thus, I to thee the means of safety show :
 And lost my self, would still preserve my Foe.
 False as thou art, I not thy death design :
 O rather live to be the cause of mine !
 Shou'd some avenging storm thy Vessel tear,
 (But Heav'n forbid my words shou'd Omen bear,)
 Then, in thy face thy perjur'd Vows would fly ;
 And my wrong'd Ghost be present to thy eye.
 With threatning looks, think thou behold'st me
 Gasping my mouth, and clotted all my hair, (stare,
 Then shou'd fork'd Lightning and red Thunder fall,
 VVhat cou'dst thou say, but I deserv'd 'em all ?
 Lest this shoud happen, make not hast away.
 To shun the danger will be worth thy stay.
 Have pity on thy Son, if not on me :
 My death alone is guilt enough for thee.
 VVhat has his Youth, what have thy Gods deserv'd,
 To sink in Seas, who were from fires preserv'd ?
 But neither Gods nor Parent didst thou bear,
 (Smooth stories all, to please a VVomans ear.)

Falſe waſt the tale of thy Romantick life;
Nor yet am I thy firſt deluded Wife.
Left to purſuing Foes *Crenſa* ſtay'd,
By thee, baſe man, forſaken and betray'd.
This, when thou told'ſt me, ſtruck my tender heart,
That ſuch requital follow'd ſuch deſert.
Nor doubt I but the Gods, for Crimes like theſe,
Sev'n Winters kept thee wandring on the Seas.
Thy ſtarv'd Companions, caſt a Shore, I fed,
Thy ſelf admitted to my Crown and Bed.
To harbour Strangers, ſuccour the diſtreſt,
Waſ kind enough; but oh too kind the reſt!
Curſt be the Cave which firſt my ruin brought:
Where, from the ſtorm, we common ſhelter ſought!
A dreadful howling eccho'd round the place,
The Mountain Nymphs, thought I, my Nuptials
I thought ſo then, but now too late I know ^{(grace,}
The Furies yell'd my Funerals from below.
O Chſtity and violated Fame,
Exact your dues to my dead Huſbands name!

By Death redeem my reputation lost;
And to his Arms restore my guilty Ghost,
Close by my Pallace, in a Glomy Grove,
Is rais'd a Chappel to my Murder'd Love.
There, wreath'd with boughs and wool his Statue
The pious Monument of Artful hands : (stands,
Last night, methought, he call'd me from the dome,
And thrice with hollow voice, cry'd, *Dido*, come.
She comes : thy VVife thy lawful summons hears :
But comes more slowly, clogg'd with conscious
Forgive the wrong I offer'd to thy bed, (fears.
Strong were his Charms, who my weak faith misled.
His Goddess Mother, and his aged Sire,
Born on his back, did to my fall conspire.
O such he was, and is, that were he true,
VVithout a blush I might his Love pursue.
But cruel Stars my Birth-day did attend :
And as my Fortune open'd, it must end.
My plighted Lord was at the Altar slain,
VVhose wealth was made my bloody Brothers gain :
Friend-

Friendless, and follow'd by the Murd'ers hate,
To foreign Countries I remov'd my Fate ;
And here, a suppliant, from the Natives hands,
I bought the ground on which my City stands.
With all the Coast that stretches to the Sea ;
Ev'n to the friendly Port that shelter'd thee :
Then rais'd these Walls, which mount into the Air,
At once my Neighbours wonder, and their fear.
For now they Arm ; and round me Leagues are
My scarce Establish'd Empire to invade. (made,
To Man my new built Walls I must prepare,
An helpless Woman, and unskill'd in War.
Yet thousand Rivals to my Love pretend ;
And for my Person, would my Crown defend :
Whose jaring Votes in on complaint agree,
That each unjustly is disdain'd for thee.
To proud *Hyarbas* give me up a prey ;
(For that must follow, if thou go'st away.)
Or to my Husbands Murd'rer leave my life ;
That to the Husband he may add the Wife.

Go then; since no complaints can move thy mind :
 Go perjur'd Man, but leave thy Gods behind.
 Touch not those Gods by whom thou art forsworn;
 Who will in impious hands no more be born,
 Thy Sacrilegious worship they disdain,
 And rather wou'd the *Grecian* fires sustain.
 Perhaps my greatest shame is still to come ;
 And part of thee lies hid within my womb.
 The Babe unborn must perish by thy hate,
 And Perish guiltless in his Mothers fate.
 Some God, thou say'st, thy Voyage does command :
 Wou'd the same God had barr'd thee from my
 Land.

The same, I doubt not, thy departure steers,
 Who kept thee out at Sea so many years.
 Where thy long labours were a price so great,
 As thou to purchase *Troy* wou'dst not repeat.
 But *Tyber* now thou seek'st ; to be at best
 When there arriv'd, a poor precarious Guest.

Yet

Yet it deludesthy search : Perhaps it will
To thy Old Age lie undiscover'd still.
A ready Crown and Wealth in Dow'r I bring ;
And without conqu'ring, here thou art a King.
Here thou to *Carthage* may'st transfer thy *Troy* ;
Here young *Ascanius* may his Arms imploy :
And, while we live secure in soft repose,
Bring many Laurels home from Conquer'd Foes.
By Cupids Arrows, I adjure thee, stay ;
By all the Gods, Companions of thy way.
So may thy *Trojans*, who are yet alive,
Live still, and with no future Fortune strive :
So may thy Youthful Son old age attain,
And thy dead Fathers Bones in peace remain,
As thou hast pity on unhappy me,
Who know no Crime, but too much Love of thee
I am not born from fierce *Achilles* Line :
Nor did my Parents against *Troy* combine,
To be thy Wife, if I unworthy prove,
By some inferior name admit my Love.

To be secur'd of still possessing thee,
What wou'd I do, and what wou'd I not be !
Our *Lybian* Coasts their certain seasons know,
When free from Tempests passengers may go.
But now with Northern Blasts the Billows roar,
And drive the floating Sea-weed to the Shore.
Leave to my care the time to Sail away ;
When safe, I will not suffer thee to stay.
Thy weary Men wou'd be with ease content ;
Their Sails are tatter'd, and their Masts are spent :
If by no merit I thy mind can move,
What thou deny'st my merit, give my Love.
Stay , till I learn my loss to undergo ;
And give me time to struggle with my woe.
If not : Know this, I will not suffer long ;
My life's too loathsome, and my love too strong.
Death holds my pen, and dictates what I say,
While cross my lap thy *Trojan* Sword I lay. (flood,
My tears flow down ; the sharp edge cuts their
And drinks my sorrows, that must drink my blood.

How

How well thy gift does with my Fate agree!
My Funeral pomp is cheaply made by thee.
To no new wounds my bosom I display:
The Sword but enters where Love made the way.
But thou, dear Sister, and yet dearer friend,
Shalt my cold ashes to their Urn attend.
Sichæus Wife, let not the Marble boast,
I lost that Title when my Fame I lost.
This short Inscription only let it bear,
"Unhappy *Dido* lies in quiet here.
"The cause of death, and Sword by which she dy'd,
"Æneas gave: the rest her arm supply'd.

The Foregoing
E P I S T L E
O F
D I D O
T O
Æ N E A S
By another H A N D.

S O in unwonted Notes, when sure to die,
The mournful Swan sings her own Elegy.
I do not hope by this to change my Fate,
Since Heaven and you are both resolv'd to hate.
Robb'd of my Honour, 'tis no wonder now
That you disdain me when I meanly sue;

Deaf

Deaf to my Pray'rs, that you resolve to go,
 And leave th' unhappy you have rendred so.
 You and your Love, the Winds away must bear,
 Forgot is all that you so oft did swear :
 With cruel hast to distant Lands you fly,
 Yet know not whose they are, nor where they lie.
 On *Carthage* and its rising Walls you frown,
 And shun a Scepter, which is now your own ;
 All you have gain'd, you proudly do contemn,
 And fondly seek a fancied Diadem.
 And should you reach at last this promis'd Land,
 Who'll give its Power into a Strangers hand ?
 Another easie *Dido* do you seek ?
 And new Occasions new made Vows to break ?
 When can you Walls like ours of *Carthage* build,
 And see your Street with crowds of Subjects fill'd ;
 But tho' all this Succeeded to your mind,
 So true a Wife no search could ever find.

Scorch'd up with Loves fierce fire my Life does
 Like Incense on the flaming Altar cast,

(waft

All

All day *Æneas* walks before my sight,
In all my Dreams I see him every night;
But see him still Ingrateful as before,
And such as, if I could, I should abhor.
But the strong Flame burns on against my will,
I call him False, but Love the Traytor still.

Goddeſs of Love, thee all the World adore!
And ſhall thy Son ſlight thy Almighty power?
His Brothers ſtubborn Soul let *Cupid* move,
Teach me to hate, or him to merit Love!
But the Impoſtor his high Birth did feign,
(Tho' to that tale his Face did credit gain,)
He was not born of *Venus*, who could prove
So cruel, and ſo Faithleſs in his Love.
From Rocks or Mountains he deriv'd his Birth!
Fierce *Wolves* or Savage *Tygers* brought him forth!
Or elſe he ſprung from the Tempeſtuous Main,
To which ſo eagerly he flies again.

How dreadful the contending Waves appear!
Theſe winter ſtorms by force would keep you here.

The storms are kinder and the Winds more true!
Let me owe them, what I would owe to you.
You'll shew your hatred at too dear a rate,
If to fly me, you run on certain fate.
Stay only till these raging Tempests cease,
And breeding *Halcyons* all my fears release.
Then you perhaps may change your cruel mind,
And will learn pity from the Sea and wind.
Are you not warn'd by all you've felt and seen?
And will you tempt the faithless Floods again?
Tho'twere calm now, it would not long be so,
Think, to what distant Countries you would go.
There's not one God who will that Vessel bless,
Which lies, and frauds, and Perjuries oppress.
The Sea let every faithless Lover fear,
The Queen of Love rose thence, and Governs there.
Still the dear Cause of all my Ills I love,
And my last words Heav'n for your safety move;
That your false Flight may not as fatal be
To you, as your dissembled Love to me.

But

But in the Storm, when the huge Billows rowl,
 (Th' unlucky Omen may kind Heav'n controul,) }
 Think what distracted thoughts will fill your }
 soul. }

You'll then remember every broken vow,
 With Horror think on Murd'red *Dido* too:
 My Ghost all pale and Ghastly shall be there,
 With mortal wounds still bleeding I'll appear.
 Then you will own what to such Crimes is due,
 And think each Flash of Lightning aim'd at you:
 Your cruel Flight till the next calm delay,
 Your quiet passage will reward your stay:
 I beg not for my self, but do not joyn
 The Guilt of your *Ascanius* Death to mine.
 What has your Son, what have your Gods deserv'd?
 For a worse Fate were they from flames preserv'd?
 But sure you neither sav'd them from the Fire,
 Nor on your shoulders bore your aged Sire;
 But did Contrive that story, to deceive
 A Queen, so fond, so willing to believe.

Your ready Tongue told many a pleasing lie,
Nor did it practise first these cheats on me.

You by like Arts did fair *Crensa* gain,
And then forsook her with a like disdain.
I've wept to hear you tell that Ladies Fate,
My self now justly more unfortunate.

'Tis to Revenge these Crimes the Gods Engage,
And make you wander out your wretched Age.

A Shipwrack'd wretch I kindly did receive,
My Wealth and Crown to hands unknown did
give.

Had I stop'd there, I had been free from shame,
And had not stain'd my clear and spotless Fame,
Heaven to betray my Honour did comply,
When thunder and black clouds fill'd all the Sky. }
And made us to the fatal shelter fly.

The furies howl'd, and dire presages gave,
And shrieking Nymphs forsook the guilty Cave.
I cannot live that Crime torments me so,
Yet full of shame to my *Sickens* go.

In a fair Temple built by skilfull hands,
A Sacred Image of *Sichæus* stands ;
With snowy Fleeces drest, and Garlands Crown'd,
From thence of late I've heard a dismal sound !
Four times he call'd me with a hollow Voice,
My loosn'd Joynts still tremble at the Noise !
My dearest Lord your Summons I obey,
'Tis shame to meet you makes this short delay.

Yet such a Tempter might the Crime excuse,
His Heavenly Race, and all his solemn Vows !
The best of Fathers, the most pious Son !
Who could suspect he, who such things had done,
So well had acted all the parts of Life,
Could have betray'd a Princess and a Wife ?
Had he not wanted Faith, your self must own
He had deserv'd to fill my Bed and Throne.

In my first Youth what cares disturb'd my peace !
And my misfortunes with my years increase !
My Husbands blood was by my Brother spilt,
And still his wealth Rewards the prosperous Guilt.

Through ways unknown a dangerous flight I take,
His ashes and my Native Soil forsake ;
Here sheltred from my brothers Cruelty,
I bought this Kingdom, which I gave to thee.
My City did in Glory daily rise,
Which all my Neighbours saw with envious eyes.
And force against unfinish'd Walls prepare,
Threatning a helpless Woman with a War.
Those many Kings, who did my Bed desire,
Now to revenge their slighted Love conspire.

Go on, my People are at your Command,
Give me up bound to some fierce Rivals hand :
Assist my Cruel Brothers black design,
Drunk with *Sichæus* Blood, he thirsts for mine.
But then pretend to piety no more,
The false, and perjur'd, all the Gods abhor.
Even those you snatch'd from *Troy's* devouring
Flame,
Are griev'd that from such hands their safety came.

A growing Infant in my Womb you leave,
 Of your whole self, you cannot me bereave.
 You kill not *Dido* only if you go,
 The Guiltless and unborn you Murder too.
 With me a new unknown *Ascanius* dies,
 Tho' deaf to mine, yet think you hear his cries.

But 'tis the God Commands, and you obey,
 Ah! would that he who now forbids you stay,
 Had never led your shatter'd fleet this way!
 And now this God Commands you out again
 T' endure another Winter on the Main!
 Scarce *Troy* restor'd to all her Ancient State,
 Were worth the seeking at so dear a rate.
 Cease then through such vast Dangers to pursue
 A place, which, but in Dreams, you never knew.
 In search of which, you your best years may waste,
 And come a stranger there, and old at last.
 See at your feet a willing people lies,
 And do not offer'd wealth, and power despise.

Fix here the Reliques of unhappy *Troy*,
And in soft peace, all you have sav'd, injoy.

But if new dangers your great Soul desires,
If thirst of fame your Sons young breast inspires,
You'll frequent Tryals here for Valour find,
Our Neighbours are as rough as we are kind.
By your dear Fathers Soul I beg your stay,
By the kind Gods who hither blest your way,
And by your Brothers dart, which all obey.
So may white Conquest on your Troops attend,
And all your long Misfortunes here take end.
So with his years may your Sons hopes increase,
So may *Anchises* Ashes rest in peace,

Some pity let a suppliant Princess move,
Whose only fault was an Excess of Love.
I am not sprung from any *Grecian* Race,
None of my Blood did your Lov'd *Troy* deface.
Yet if your pride think such a Wife a shame,
I'll Sacrifice my Honour to my flame,
And meet your Love by a less glorious name.

I know the dangers of this stormy Coast,
How many Ships have on our shelves been lost.
These winds have driv'n the floating Sea-weed so,
That your intangled Vessel cannot go.
Do not attempt to put to Sea in vain,
Till happier Gales have clear'd your way again.
Trust me to watch the calming of the Sea,
You shall not then, tho' you desir'd it, stay.
Besides your weary Seamen rest desire,
And your torn fleet now rigging does require.
By all I suffer, all I've done for you,
Some little respite to my Love allow.
Time and calm thoughts may teach me how to bear
That loss, which now alas 'tis death to hear.
But you resolve to force me to my grave,
And are not far from all that you would have.
Your Sword before me, whilst I write, does lie,
And, by it, if I write in vain, I die.
Already stain'd with many a falling tear,
It shortly shall another colour wear.

You

You never could an apter present make,
•Twill soon, the Life you've made uneasy, take.
But this poor breast has felt your Wounds before,
Slain by your love, your steel has now no power.
Dear Guilty Sister, do not you deny
The last kind Office to my Memory;
But do not on my Funeral Marble joyn
Much wrong'd *Sichæus* Sacred Name with mine.
“ Of false *Æneas* let the stone complain,
“ That *Dido* could not bear his fierce disdain,
“ But by his Sword, and her own hand was slain.

BRISEIS to ACHILLES.

B Y

JOHN CARRL, Esq;

The ARGUMENT.

In the War of Troy, Achilles having taken and Sack'd Chrynesium, a Town in the Lyrnesian Country, amongst his other Booty, he took two very fair Women, Chryseis, and Briseis: Chryseis he Presented to King Agamemnon, and Briseis he reserved for himself. Agamemnon after some time was forced by the Oracle to restore Chryseis to her Father, who was one of the Priests of Apollo: Whereupon the King by violence took away Briseis from Achilles; at which Achilles incens'd, left the Camp of the Grecians, and prepared to Sail home; in whose absence the Trojans prevailing upon the Grecians, Agamemnon was compell'd to send Ulysses, and others to offer him rich Presents, and Briseis, that he would return again to the Army: But Achilles with disdain reject'd them all. This Letter therefore is written by Briseis, to move him, that he would receive her, and return to the Grecian Camp.

Captive *Briseis* in a forein Tongue (wrong.
More by her blots, than words, sets forth her
And

And yet these blots, which by my tears are made,
Above all words, or writing should persuade.
Subjects (I know) must not their Lords accuse;
Yet prayers and tears we lawfully may use.
When ravish'd from your Arms, I was the prey
Of *Agamemnons* arbitrary sway;
I grant, you must at last have left the Field,
But, for a Lover, you too soon did yield.
A Warriors Glory it must needs disgrace,
At the first summons to yield up the place.
The Enemies themselves, no less than I,
Stood wondring at their easie Victory:
I saw their lips in whispers softly move,
Is this the Man so fam'd for Arms, and Love?
Alas! *Achilles*, 'tis not so we part
From what we love, and what is near our heart.
No healing kisses to my grief you gave;
You turn'd me off, an unregarded slave.
Was it your rage, that did your Love suppress?
Ah, love *Briseis* more, and hate *Atrides* less!

He is not born of a true Hero's Race,
 Who lets his fury of his Love take place.
Tygers, and *Wolves* can fight : Love is the Test,
 Distinguishing the Hero from the Beast.
 Alas ! when I was from your bosom forc'd,
 I felt my body from my soul divorc'd ;
 A deadly paleness overspread my face ;
 Sleep left my eyes, and to my tears gave place :
 I tore my hair, and did my death decree :
 Ah ! learn to part with what you love, from me.
 A bold escape I often did essay,
 But *Greeks*, and *Trojans* too, block'd up the way :
 Yet tho' a tender Maid could not break thrôw,
 Methinks, *Achilles* should not be so slow ;
Achilles, once the thunderbolt of War,
 The hope of Conquering *Greece*, and *Troy's* despair,
 Me in his Rivals Arms can he behold ?
 And is his Courage with his Love grown cold ?
 But I confess, that my neglected Charms
 Did not deserve the Conquest of your Arms ;

There-

Therefore the Gods did by an easier way
Our wrongs atone, and dammages repay :
Ajax with *Phœnix* and *Ulysses* bring
Humble submissions from their haughty King :
The Royal Penitent rich Presents sends,
The strongest Cement to piece broken friends.
When Pray'rs well seconded with Gifts are sent,
Both mortal, and immortal Powers relent :
Twenty bright Vessels of *Corinthian* Brass,
Their Sculpture did the costly Mine surpass ;
Seven Chairs of State of the same Art, and Mould,
And twice five Talents of perswasive Gold.
Twelve fiery Steeds of the *Epirian* breed,
Matchless they are for beauty, and for speed ;
Six *Lesbian* Maids (but these I well cou'd spare)
Their Island Sack'd, these were the General's share ;
And last a Bride, (ah ! tell 'em I am thine)
At your own choice out of the Royal Line :
With these they offer me : But, might I chuse,
You should take me, and all their gifts refuse :

But

But me and those you suddenly reject;
 What have I done, to merit this neglect?
 Is it that you, and Fortune jointly vow,
 Whom you make wretched, still to keep them so?
 Your Arms my Country did in ashes lay,
 My House destroy, Brothers and Husbands slay:
 It had been kindness to have kill'd me too,
 Rather than kill me with unkindness now.
 With Vows as faithless, as your Mother Sea,
 You loudly promis'd, that you would to me,
 Country, and Brothers, and a Husband be.
 And is it thus, that you perform your Vow,
 Even with a Dowry to reject me too?
 Nay, fame reports that with the next fair wind,
 Leaving your Honour, Faith, and me behind,
 You quit our Coasts: Before that fatal hour,
 May thunder strike me, or kind Earth devour!
 I all things, but your absence can endure!
 That's a disease, which Death must only cure.

If

But

If to *Achaia* you will needs return,
Leaving all *Greece* your fullen rage to mourn.
Place me but in the number of your train,
And I no servile Office will disdain :
If I'm deny'd the Honour of your Bed,
Let me at least be, as your Captive led :
Rather than banish'd from your Family
I will endure another Wife to see ;
A Wife, to make the great *Æacian* Line,
Like Starry Heaven, as numerously shine ;
That so your spreading Progeny may prove
Worthy of *Thetis*, and their Grandfire *Jove*.
Let me on her an humble Hand-Maid, wait
On her, because to you she does relate.
I fear (I know not why) that she may be,
Than to her other Maids, more harsh to me :
But you are bound to guard your Conquer'd slave,
And to maintain the Articles you gave :
Yet should you yield to her imperious sway,
Do what you will, but turn me not away.

But

BRISEIS to ACHILLES. 225

But why should you depart? the King repents;
 The *Grecian* Army wants you in their Tents:
 You conquer all; Conquer your passion too;
 Or else with *Hector*, you will *Greece* undo.
 Take Arms (*Æacides*) but first take me,
 Your juster rage let routed *Trojans* see.
 For me begun, for me your anger end;
 The fault I caus'd, let me have power to mend.
 In this to me you may with Honour yield,
 Rul'd by his Wife, *Oenides* took the field.
 His Mothers Sacred Curses him disarm'd,
 But by his Wife's more powerful Spells uncharm'd.
 His armour once put off, he buckles on,
 And fights and Conquers for his *Calidon*:
 That happy Wife prevail'd, why should not I?
 But you that Title, and my Power deny:
 Title and Power, and all ambitious strife
 Of being call'd your Mistress, or your Wife,
 I quietly lay down; but I must have
 This Claim allow'd, to be your faithful Slave.

I by those dread, ill-cover'd Ashes swear,
(Alas their Tomb *Lyrnesian* Ruins are)
Of my dead Spouse, and by each Sacred Ghost
Of my three Brothers, honourably lost,
Who for, and with their Country bravely fell ;
By all, that's awful both in Heav'n, and Hell :
And last of all by thine own head, and mine,
Whom Love, though parted now, did sometimes
That I preserve my Faith entire and chaste ; (joyn,
That I no forein love, or pleasure taste ;
That no aspersiō can my Honour touch ;
O ! that *Achilles* too could say as much !
Some think he mourns for me ; But others say,
In Loves soft joys he melts his hours away ;
That some new Mistress with *Circean* Charms
Has lockt him up in her lascivious arms,
And so transform'd from what he was before,
That he will fight for *Greece* or Me no more.
The Trumpet now to the soft Lute must yield :
To Midnight Revels, Marches in the field.

He whom of late *Greece*, as her *Mars*, ador'd ;
 He, on whose Massie spear, and glittering Sword
 The fates, and death did wait, that mighty Man
 Now weilds a Busk, and brandisheth a Fan.

Avert it Heaven! can he be only brave
 To waist my Country, not his own to save?
 And when his Arms my Family mow'd down,
 Lost he his sting, and so became a Drone?
 Ah! cure these fears; and let me have the pride,
 To see your Javelin fixt in *Hector's* side.

O! that the *Grecians* would send me to try,
 If I could make your stubborn heart comply :
 Few words I'd use, all should be sighs, and tears,
 And looks, and kisses, mixt with hopes, and fears :
 My Love like lightning thrôw my Eyes should fly,
 And thaw the Ice, which round your heart does lie :
 Sometimes my Arms about your neck I'd throw ;
 And then imbrace your knees, and humbly bow :
 There is more Eloquence in tears, and kisses,
 Than in the smooth Harangues of sly *Ulysses* :

That noisſe Rhetorick of a twanging tongue,
Serves but to lug the heavy Crowd along :
But Souls with Souls ſpeak only by the Eye,
And at thoſe Windows one another ſpy :
Thus, then your Mother Sea rais'd with the wind
More fierce, I would compoſe your ſtormy mind ;
And my Love ſhining on my tears that flow,
Should make a Rain-bow, and fair weather ſhow.
So dreams my Love. Ah ! come, that I may try,
If I can turn my Dream to Prophecy.
So may your *Pyrrhus* live to equalize
His Grandfire's years, his Fathers Victories.
Let me no longer pin'd in abſence lie ;
Rather than live without you, let me die :
My heart's already cold, and death do's ſpread
His livid paleneſs o're my lively red.
My Life hangs only on the ſlender hope,
That your reviving Love your rage will ſtop.
If that ſhould fail, let me not linger on,
But let that Sword (to mine ah ! too well known)

Me to my Brothers, and my Husband send;
 Your hand began, your hand the work must end.
 But why such Cruelty? come then, and save
 Afflicted Greece, and me your humble Slave.
 How much more decently might you employ
 Your ill-spent Rage against *Neptunian Troy*!
 Then furl your Sails, once more your Anchors cast:
 Leave not your Country, nor your honour blast.
 But go or stay; with you I ought to move,
 Made yours by Right of War, and Right of Love.

DEIANIRA

T O

HERCULES

The ARGUMENT.

Deianira having heard that Hercules was fallen in Love with Iole a Captive; and at the same time that he was dying by a poisoned Shirt she had presented him with, and had been told would recover a lost affection: betwixt disdain and anger for the first, and grief and despair for the latter, she writes the following Lines to her Husband.

I'M pleas'd with the success your Valour gave,
But grieve the Victor is his Captives slave.

This unexpected News soon flew to me,
And with your former Life does ill agree.

Con-

Continual Action, nor yet *Juno's* Hate,
 Ne'r hurt whom *Iole* does Captivate:
Eurystheus this, this did *Jove's* Wife design,
 Laugh at your weakness, and these tears of mine;
 But *Jupiter* hop'd better things, when he
 To make this Hero, made one night of three.
Venus has hurt you more by her soft Charms,
 Than angry *Juno* that Implies your Arms;
 She by depressing you, rais'd you the more,
 The other treads on you, whom you adore.
 You've freed the World from troublers of mankind,
 All things submit to your Heroick mind:
 You make the Seas secure, the Earth have rest,
 Your mighty Name fills both the East and West.
 Heaven, that must bear you, you did bear before,
 When weary *Atlas* did your aid Implore.
 Yet for all this, the greater is your shame,
 If with mean Acts you stain your Glorious Name.
 You kill'd two *Serpents* with your Infant hand,
 Which then deserv'd *Joves* Scepter to Command.

Your last deeds differ from your first success,
The Infant makes the Man appear the less.
No Savage Beasts, nor fiercer Enemies,
Cou'd Conquer him, whom Love does now surprize,
Some think my Marriage a great Happiness,
Being *Joves* Daughter, Wife of *Hercules*;
But as Extreams do very ill agree,
The Greatness of my Husband lessens me:
This seeming Honour gives a mortal wound:
Amongst our Equals Happiness is found:
At home in quiet they their Lives enjoy;
Tumults, and Wars, do all his hours imploy:
This absence makes me so unfortunate,
I buy your Glory at too dear a rate.
I weary Heaven with Vows and Sacrifice,
Lest you should fall by Beasts, or Enemies,
When you assault a *Lion*, or Wild *Boar*,
You hazard much, but I still hazard more.
Strange Dreams and Visions set before mine Eyes,
The dangers that attend your Victories.

Unhappy I to vain Reports give Ear,
 Then vainly hope, and then as vainly fear.
 Your absent Mother blushes she pleas'd *Jove*,
Amphitryos absent, and the Son you love.
 I see *Eurystheus* has contriv'd your Fate,
 And will make use of *Juno's* restless hate.
 This I could bear, did you love none but me,
 But you are Amorous of all you see.
 Yet *Omphale* does now inrage me more,
 Than all the Beauties you admir'd before.
Menanders Streams have seen those shoulders wear
 Rich Chains, that Heav'n as a small weight did
 bear.

But were you not ashamed to behold (Gold,
 Those Arms weigh'd down with Jewels, and with
 That made the fierce *Nemean Lyon* die,
 And wore his Skin to shew the Victory?
 When like a Woman you did dress your hair,
Lawrel had been for you a fitter wear.

As

As Wanton Maids, you thought it was no shame
To wear a Sash to please your haughty Dame.
Fierce *Diomedes* was not in your mind,
That fed his bloody Horses with mankind:
Did but *Buſiris* see this strange disguise,
The conquer'd would the Conqueror despise.
Anteus would retrieve his Captive State,
And scorn a Victor so Effeminate.
Among the *Grecian* Virgins you sit down,
And spin, and tremble at a Womans frown?
A Distaffe, not a Scepter fills that Hand,
That Conquer'd all things, and did all Command.
Then in her presence you do trembling stand,
And fear a blow as death, from her fair hand:
And to regain her favour you reveal
Those glorious Actions you should then conceal.
How you that strange and fruitful Serpent slew,
That by his wounds more fierce and stronger grew.
How when you fought, you never lost the field,
But made great Kings and cruel Monsters yield.

And

And can you boast or think of things so great,
Now you wear Silks, and are with Jewels set ?
These actions and that Garb do disagree,
So soft a dress do's give your tongue the lie.
Your Mistress too puts on your Conqu'ring Arms,
And makes you stoop to her more pow'rful
Charms.

She wears your Robest to shew her Victory,
And is, what you once thought your self to be.
Your glorious Conquest, and illustrious Fame,
Give her renown, but you eternal shame.
All is to her, by whom you'r conquer'd, due ;
Go now and brag of what remains to you.
Is't not a shame, that her soft Arms should bear
The *Lions* rugged skin you once did wear ?
These spoils are not the *Lions* but your own,
The Beast you Conquer'd, you she Overcome.
She takes your Club up in her feeble hand,
And in her Glass she learns how to Command.

All

All this I heard : yet I could not believe
The sad report, which causes me to grieve.
Your *Iole* is brought before my face,
I must be Witness of my own disgrace.
Whilst I reflect on my unhappy Fate,
She makes her Entry in the Town in State.
Not as a Captive with her hair unbound,
Nor her dejected Eyes fixt on the Ground ;
But cover'd o're with Jewels and with Gold,
As *Phrygia* once did *Hercules* behold ;
And salutes all with as much Majesty,
As if her Father had the Victory.
Perhaps to leave me is design'd by you,
True to your Mistress, to your Wife untrue.
You'l be Divorc'd from me, and Marry her,
The Conquer'd must obey the Conquerour,
This fear torments me more than all the rest,
And as a Dagger, wounds my troubled Breast.
I knew the time when you did love me more,
Than any she whom you do now adore.

But oh ! as I am writing, the news flies,
That by a poyson'd Shirt my Husband dies.
What have I done , whether has Love drove
me ?

Is Love the Authour of such cruelty ?

Shall my dear *Hercules* endure this pain,

And I, th' unhappy Cause, alive remain ?

My Title to him, by my Death I'll prove,

And surely Death's an Argument of Love.

Meleager will a Sister find in me :

Shall *Deianira* be afraid to die ?

Unhappy House ! Usurpers fill the Throne,

Whilst the true Sovereign is esteem'd by none.

One Brother wafts his Life in forein Lands,

The other perish'd by his Mothers hands,

Who on her self reveng'd the Crime : Then why

Should *Deianira* be afraid to die ?

Only this thing I beg with my last breath ,

Not to believe that I design'd your death.

As

As soon as you struck *Nessus* with your dart,
His blood, he said, would Charm a straying
heart.

In it I dipt the shirt, 'twas but to try:

O *Deianira* make, make hast to die.

Adieu my Father, Sister too adieu!

Adieu my Country, and my Brother too!

Farewel this light, the last that I shall see,

Hyllus farewel, my dear I come to thee.

A C O N.

ing

ACONTIUS TO CYDIPPE.

BY

Mr. R. D U K E.

The ARGUMENT.

Acontius in the Temple of Diana at Delos, (famous for the resort of the most Beautiful Virgins of all Greece) fell in Love with Cydippe, a Lady of Quality much above his own ; not daring therefore to Court her openly, he found this device to obtain her : He writes upon the fairest Apple that could be procured , a couple of Verses to this effect,

N. " I swear by Chast Diana, I will be .

" In Sacred Wedlock ever joyn'd to thee.

and

and throws it at the feet of the young Lady. She suspecting not the deceit takes it up, and reads it, and therein promises her self in Marriage to Acontius; there being a Law there in force, that whatever any person should Swear in the Temple of Diana of Delos, should stand good and be inviolably observ'd. But her Father not knowing what had past, and having not long after promised her to another, just as the Solemnities of Marriage were to be perform'd, she was taken with a sudden and violent Fever, which Acontius endeavours to perswade her was sent from Diana, as a punishment of the breach of the Vow made in her presence. And this, with the rest of the Arguments which on such an occasion would occur to a Lover, is the Subject of the following Epistle.

(more,

Read boldly this; here you shall Swear no
 For that's enough which you have Sworn
 Read it; so may that violent Disease, (before.
 Which thy dear body, but my Soul doth seise,
 Forget its too long practis'd Cruelty,
 And health to you restore, and you to me.

Why

Why do you blush? for blush you do I fear,
 As when you first did in the Temple swear:
 Truth to your plighted Faith is all I claim;
 And truth can never be the cause of shame.
 Shame lives with guilt, but you your vertue prove
 In favouring mine, for mine's a Husbands love.
 Ah! to your self those binding words repeat
 That once your wishing Eyes ev'n long'd to meet,
 When th'Apple brought 'em dancing to your feet.
 There you will find the Solemn Vow you made,
 Which, if your health, or mine can ought perswade,
 You to perform should rather mindful be,
 Than great *Diana* to revenge on thee.
 My fears for you increase with my desire,
 And Hope blows that already raging fire;
 For hope you gave; nor can you this deny,
 For the great Goddess of the Fane was by;
 She was, and heard, and from her hallowed Shrine
 A sudden kind Auspicious light did shine.

R

Her

Why

Her Statue seem'd to nod its awful head,
And give its glad consent to what you said ;
'Now, if you please, accuse my prosperous cheat,
Yet still confess 'twas Love that taught me it.
In that deceit what did I else design,
But with your own consent to make you mine?
What you my Crime, I call my Innocence,
Since Loving you has been my sole offence.
Nor nature gave me, nor has practise taught
The Nets with which young Virgins hearts are
You my accuser taught me to deceive, (caught.
And Love, with you, did his assistance give ;
For Love stood by, and smiling bad me write
The cunning words he did himself indite :
Again, you see I write by his Command,
He guides my Pen, and rules my willing hand,
Again such kind, such loving words I send,
As makes me fear that I again offend.
Yet if my Love's my Crime, I must confess,
Great is my Guilt, but never shall be less.

Oh

Oh that I thus might ever guilty prove,
 In finding out new paths to reach thy Love.
 A thousand ways to that steep Mountain lead,
 Tho' hard to find, and difficult to tread.
 All these will I find out, and break through all,
 For which my Flames compar'd, the danger's small.
 The Gods alone know what the end will be,
 Yet if we Mortals any thing foresee,
 One way or other you must yield to me.
 If all my Arts should fail, to Arms I'll fly,
 And snatch by force what you my Prayers deny:
 I all those Heroes mighty Acts applaud,
 Who first have led me this Illustrious Road.
 I too --- but hold, death the reward will be,
 Death be it then ———
 For to lose you is more than death to me.
 Were you less fair, I'd use the vulgar way
 Of tedious Courtship, and of dull delay.
 But thy bright form kindles more eager fires,
 And something wondrous, as it self, Inspires;

Those Eyes that all the Heavenly lights out-shine,
(Which Oh ! may'st thou behold, and love in mine)
Those snowy Arms, which on my neck should fall,
If you the Vows you made, regard at all,
That modest sweetness, and becoming Grace,
That paints with living red your blushing face,
Those feet with which they only can compare,
That through the Silver flood bright *Thetis* bear :
Do all conspire my madness to excite,
With all the rest that is deny'd to fight.
Which could I praise, alike I then were blest,
And all the storms of my vex'd Soul at rest.
No wonder then if with such Beauty fir'd,
I of your Love the Sacred pledge desir'd,
Rage now and be as angry as you will,
Your very frowns all other smiles excel ;
But give me leave that anger to appease,
By my submission, that my Love did raise.
Your pardon prostrate at your feet I'll crave,
The humble posture of your guilty Slave.

With falling tears your fiery rage I'll cool,
And lay the rising tempest of your soul.
Why in my absence are you thus severe ?
Summon'd at your Tribunal to appear,
For all my Crimes, I'd gladly suffer there,
With pride whatever you inflict receive,
And love the wounds those hands vouchsafe to
give.

Your Fetters too — But they alas are vain,
For Love has bound me, and I hug my Chain.
Your hardest Laws with patience I'll obey,
Till you your self at last relent and say,
When all my sufferings you with pity see,
He that can love so well, is worthy me.

But if all this should unsuccessful prove,
Diana claims for me your promis'd love.
O may my fears be false ! yet she delights
In just revenge of her abused Rites.
I dread to hide, what yet to speak I dread,
Lest you should think that for my self I plead,

Yet out it must, — 'Tis this, 'Tis surely this,
Tha tis the fuel to your hot disease :
When waiting *Hymen* at your Porch attends,
Her fatal Messenger the Goddess sends.
And when you would to his kind call consent,
This Feavor does your perjury prevent.
Forbear, forbear thus to provoke her rage,
Which you so easily may yet assuage.
Forbear to make that lovely charming face
The prey to every envious disease :
Preserve those looks to be enjoy'd by me,
Which none should ever but with wonder see :
Let that fresh colour to your cheeks return,
Whose glowing flame did all beholders burn.
But let on him, th' unhappy cause of all
The ills that from *Diana's* anger fall,
No greater torments light than those I feel,
When you my dearest, tenderest part are ill.
For oh ! with what dire Tortures am I rackt,
Whom different griefs successively distract !

Sometimes

Sometimes my grief from this do's higher grow,

To think that I have caus'd so much to you.

Then great *Diana's* witness, how I pray,

That all our Crimes on me alone she'd lay!

Sometimes to your lov'd doors disguis'd I
come,

And all around 'em up and down I roam.

Till I your Woman coming from you spy,

With looks dejected, and a weeping eye.

With silent steps, like some sad Ghost I steal

Close up to her, and urge her to reveal

More than new questions suffer her to tell:

How you had slept, what dyet you had us'd?

And oft the vain Physicians art accus'd.

He every hour (Oh, were I blest as he !)

Do's all the turns of your Distemper see;

Why sit not I by your Bed side all day,

My mournful head in your warm bosom lay,

Till with my Tears the inward fires decay?

Why press not I your melting hand in mine,
And from your pulse of my own health divine ?
But oh ! these wishes all are vain ; and he
Whom most I fear, may now sit close by thee,
Forgetful as thou art of Heaven and me.
He that lov'd hand do's press, and oft do's feign
Some new excuse to feel they beating vein.
Then his bold hand up to your arm do's slide,
And in your panting Breast it self do's hide ;
Kisses sometimes he snatches too from thee,
For his officious care too great a Fee.
Robber, who gave thee leave to tast that lip,
And the ripe harvest of my kisses reap ?
For they are mine, so is that bosom too,
Which false as 'tis, shall never harbour you,
Take, take away those thy Adulterous hands,
For know another Lord that breast Commands.
'Tis true, her Father promis'd her to thee,
But Heaven and she first gave her self to me.

And

And you in Justice therefore should decline
Your claim to that which is already mine.
This is the man, *Cydippe*, that excites
Diana's rage, to vindicate her Rites.
Command him then not to approach thy door,
This done, the danger of your death is o're.
For fear not, Beauteous Maid, but keep thy
Vow,

Which great *Diana* heard, and did allow.

And she who took it, will thy health restore,
And be propitious as she was before,

“ 'Tis not the steam of a slain *Heifers* blood,

“ That can allay the anger of a God.]

“ 'Tis Truth, and Justice to our Vows, appease

“ Their angry Deities, and without these

“ No slaughter'd Beast their fury can divert ;

“ For that's a Sacrifice without a heart.

Some, bitter Potions patiently endure,

And kiss the wounding Lance that works
their cure ;

You

You have no need these cruel cures to feel,
Shun being perjur'd only, and be well.
• Why let you still your pious Parents weep,
Whom you in ign'rance of your promise keep?
Oh! to your Mother all our Story tell,
And the whole progress of our Love reveal,
Tell her how first at great *Diana's* Shrine,
I fixt my eyes, my wondring eyes on thine.
How like the Statues there, I stood amaz'd,
Whilst on thy face intemperately I gaz'd.
She will her self when you my tale repeat,
Smile, and approve the Amorous deceit.
Marry, she'll say, whom Heaven commends
to thee,
He who has pleas'd *Diana*, pleases me.
But should she ask from what descent I came,
My Country, and my Parents, and my name,
Tell her that none of these deserve my shame.
Had you not sworn, you such a one might choose:
But were he worse, now sworn, you can't refuse.

This

ACONTIUS to CY DIPPE. 251

This in my dreams *Diana* bad me write,
And when I wak'd, sent *Cupid* to indite:
Obey 'em both, for one has wounded me,
Which wound if you with eyes of pity see,
She too will soon relent that wounded thee.
Then to our joys with eager hast we'll move,
As full of Beauty you, as I of Love.
To the great Temple we'll in Triumph go,
And with our Offerings at the Altar Bow.
A Golden Image there I'll Consecrate,
Of the false Apples innocent deceit;
And write below the happy Verse that came,
The Messenger of my successful flame;
"Let all the World this from *Acontius* know,
" *Cy dippe* has been faithful to her Vow.
More I could write, but since thy illness
reigns,
And wracks thy tender Limbs with sharpest
pains,

My

My pen falls down for fear, lest this might be,
Althô for me too little, yet too much for thee.

CYDIP.

CYDIPPE

Her Answer to

A CONTIUS.

BY

Mr. BUTLER.

IP. **I**N silent fear I read your Letter o're ;
Lest I shou'd Swear as I had done before !
Nor had I read, but that I fear'd t' engage
By my neglect the peevish Goddess Rage :
I vain In deck her Shrine, her Rites attend,
The partial Goddess still remains your Friend.
A Virgin rather shou'd a Virgin Aid,
But where I seek Relief I am betray'd !

I lan-

I languish, and the Cause of my Disease
As yet lies hid, no Medicine gives me Ease.
In how much pain do I this Letter write!
To my weak Hand my sicklier thoughts indite:
What anxious fear alas afflicts me too,
Left any but my trusty Nurse shou'd know!
To gain me time to write, the door she keeps,
And whispering tells the Visitants, *She Sleeps*.
Worse ills I could not for your sake sustain,
Tho' you had merit equal to my Pain.
Your Love betrays, my Beauty proves my Snare,
I had been happy had I seem'd less Fair:
Whilst with your Rival you contend to raise
My Beauty's Fame, I perish by your Praise:
Whilst neither will admit the others Claim,
The Chase is hinder'd, and both miss the Game.
My Nuptial day draws on, my Parents press
The Sacred Rites, my blooming years no less.
But whilst glad *Hymen* at my door attends,
Grim Death waits near to force me from his Hands.

Some

Some call my Sickneſs Chance, and ſome pretend
 The Gods this Lett to croſs my Nuptials ſend ;
 Whilſt by ſeverer Censure you are gueſt,
 By *Philtr*a's, to have wrought upon my Breaſt.
 If then your love ſuch miſchief can create,
 What Miſery is reſerv'd for her you Hate !

Wou'd I to *Delos* ne'r had found the way,
 At leaſt not found it on that fatal Day !
 When in our Port our Anchors firſt we weigh'd,
 Th' unwilling veſſel ſtill i' th' Harbour ſtay'd ;
 Twice did croſs winds beat back our flagging Sails,
 Said I, croſs winds ? no! thoſe were proſp'rous Gales!
 Thoſe winds alone blew fair, that back convey'd
 Our Ship, and thoſe that oſt our Paſſage ſtay'd.
 Yet I to ſee ſam'd *Delos* am in pain,
 And fondly of each hindring blaſt complain.
 By *Tenos* Iſle, and *Mycone* we Steer'd,
 At laſt fair *Delos* winding Clifts appear'd ;
 And much I fear leſt now the *Fairy* Shore
 Shou'd vaniſh, as 'tis ſaid t' have done before.

At night we Land, soon as the day return'd
My platted Tresses are with Gemms adorn'd,
Then to attend the Sacred Rites we go,
And pious Incense on each Altar throw,
My Parents there at their Devotion stay;
My Nurse and I through all the Temple stray:
We view each Court, and each, fresh wonder
brings;

Pictures, and Statues, Gifts of Ancient Kings.
But whilst into these Rarities I pry'd,
I am my self by sly *Acontius* spy'd.

Thence to the inmost Temple we remove,
The place that should a Sanctuary prove.
Yet there I find the Apple with this Rhime —
Ah! me, I'd like to have Sworn the second time!
The Name of Wedlock I no sooner read,
But through my Cheeks a troubled blush was
spread.

Why didst thou cheat an unsuspecting Maid?
I shou'd have been intreated, not betray'd:

Is then the Goddess bound to take thy part?
And ratifie an Oath without the heart?
The will consents, but that was absent there;
I read indeed the Oath, but did not swear.
Yet cannot I deny that I suspect
Diana's Rage this sickness do's inflict;
Glad *Hymen* thrice did to our Courts repair,
Thrice frightened fled to find Death planted there.
Thin Cov'rings on my Feaverish Limbs are spread,
My Parents mourn me as already Dead.
What have I done to merit this distress,
That read but words whose fraud I cou'd not guess!
Do thou, ev'n thou from whom my sufferings
spring,
T' appease the Goddess Rage thine Off'rings bring.
When will those hands that writ the fatal Rhime,
Bear Incense to remove my pain, thy Crime!
Nor think that thy rich Rival tho' allow'd
To Visit, is of greater Favours proud.

S

By

By me he sits, but still just distance keeps,
Restless as I, talks seldom, often weeps :
Blushing he takes a kiss, and leaves a tear,
And once his Courage serv'd to Cry --- My Dear.
But from his arms still by degrees I creep,
And to prevent discourse pretend to sleep.
He finds, but wou'd his sense o'th' flight disguise,
He checks his Tongue, but chides me with his Eyes,
With grief he wasts, and I with Feavours pine.
'Tis we that suffer, but th' Offence was thine.

You write for leave to come and see me here,
Yet know your former visit cost me dear.
Why wou'dst thou hither come, thou canst but see
The double Trophies of thy Cruelty.
My flesh consum'd, my Cheeks of bloodless hue,
Such as I once did in thy Apple view.
Shou'dst see me now thou wou'dst repent thy cheat,
Nor think me worth such exquisite Deceit.
To *Delos* back with greater haste wou'dst go,
And beg the Goddess to release my Vow.

On new designs thy fancy would'st employ,
Contrive new Oaths the former to destroy.

No Means have been omitted to procure
My health, but still my Feav'rish fits endure,
We ask'd the Oracle what caus'd my pains?
The Oracle of broken Vows complains!
The Gods themselves on your behalf declare:
What hast thou done to merit this their care?
But so it is — and I at last incline,
Since that thou art their choice, to make thee
Mine.

Already to my Mother I've declar'd,
How by your Cunning I have been insnar'd.
I've done, and what I have already said,
I fear is more than will become a Maid.
My thoughts are now confus'd, and can indite
No more, my feeble hand no more can write.
Nor need I more subscribe, but this, Be True!
And (since it must be so) *my Dear Adieu!*

F I N I S.

The T A B L E.

1.	S Appho to Phaon. By Sir Carr Scrope.	Page 1
2.	Canace to Macareus. Mr. Dryden.	7
3.	Phillis to Demophoon. Mr. Pooley.	16
4.	Hypermnestra to Linus. Mr. Wright.	27
5.	Ariadne to Theseus.	35
6.	Hermione to Orestes. Mr. Pulteney.	45
7.	Leander to Hero.	} By Mr. Tate. 53, 46
8.	Hero to Leander.	
9.	Laodamia to Proteuslaus. Mr. Flatman.	68
* 10.	Phillis to Demophoon. Mr. Floyd.	78
11.	OEnone to Paris. Mr. Cooper.	87
12.	A Paraphrase on OEnone to Paris. Mrs. Behn.	97
13.	Paris to Helen. Mr. Duke.	115
14.	Helen to Paris. Lord Mulgrave, and Mr. Dryden.	138
15.	Penelope to Ulysses. Mr. Rymer.	153
16.	Hypsipyle to Jason. Mr. Settle.	160
17.	Medea to Jason. Mr. Tate.	171
18.	Phædra to Hippolytus. Mr. Otway.	184
19.	Dido to Æneas. Mr. Dryden.	195
20.	The same by another Hand.	207
21.	Briseis to Achilles. Mr. Caryl.	219
22.	Deianira to Hercules.	230
23.	Acontius to Cydippe. Mr. Duke.	239
24.	Cydippe to Acontius. Mr. Butler.	253

F I N I S.

ge i

7

16

27

35

45

46

68

78

87

chn.

97

15

nd

38

53

60

71

84

95

07

19

30

39

53